

Soil Test Information Sheet No. F540

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Homeowners Citrus Fertilization Recommendations

Citrus trees require annual fertilization for good growth and high yields of good size, high quality fruit. In late January or February, apply 1 to 2 pound of 13-13-13, 8-8-8, 8-12-8 or 6-12-6 per year of tree age up to 12 years.

Example:

1 year old tree	1 pound of fertilizer
5 year old tree	5 pounds of fertilizer
12 year old tree	12 pounds of fertilizer

Broadcast the fertilizer in a 12 to 18 inch band on the outer branches of the tree. This is where most of the feeder roots of the tree are located. Homeowners are caution to avoid applying fertilizer close to the trunk of the tree. In early June, apply ¼ pound of 34-0-0 per tree per year of tree age up to 12 years.

Commercial Citrus

Bearing trees (4 years and older)

1. Apply in late January to early February, 1-2 pounds of 8-8-8, 13-13-13, 8-12-8 or 6-12-6 per tree per year of age up to 12 years. Apply fertilizer in late January or early February.
2. In early June, apply 1/4 pound of 34-0-0 per tree per year of tree age up to 12 years.
3. Never fertilizer bearing citrus trees after the last week of June. Late applications of fertilizer will delay fruit maturity and encourage a late flush of growth that is susceptible to winter injury.
4. Growers are encouraged to take foliar samples (mature leaves of the last flush) of bearing citrus trees to monitor the levels of nutrients in the trees. The results of the foliar samples can be used to adjust the fertility program in the orchard. Contact your county agent for instructions on taking foliar samples.
5. Citrus soils should be maintained at a pH of 6.0 -6.5.

Non Bearing Trees

1. New set trees should not be fertilized until they show visual signs of growth. This is usually from 4 to 6 weeks after planting. The year of transplanting, apply 2 pound 8-8-8, 13-13-13, 8-12-8 or 6-12-6 per tree in mid March, early May and early June. These multiple applications of fertilizer on young trees enhanced growth and development.
2. Second year apply 1-2 pounds of 8-8-8, 13-13-13, 8-12-8 or 6-12-6 per tree in late January or early February, Mid March, Early May and Early June. Multiple applications of fertilizer enhanced the growth and development of young trees.

3. Third year apply 1-1/2 pounds of 8-8-8, 13-13-13, 8-12-8 or 6-12-6 per tree in late January or early February and again in mid March. Apply 3/4 pound of AMSO₄ or 1/3 pound of AMNO₃ per tree in early May and early June.
4. Never fertilize citrus trees later than the last week of June. Late applications of fertilizer encourage a late flush of growth which is susceptible to winter injury.
5. Citrus soils should be maintained at a pH of 6.0 -6.5.
6. Contact your county agent for additional information and help in your fertilization program. The agent also receives a copy of this report for the parish office files.