

# G808- Fertilization Recommendation Sheet for Home Garden Vegetables

## General Information

Soil pH is the most important factor when making fertilizer recommendations. Correct pH problems prior to fertilization.

Apply total amounts of fertilizer per area as recommended in the lab report and adjust rate based on the size of your garden. There are two key times to fertilize vegetable plants during the growing season. The first is PRE PLANT fertilization or applying fertilizer to the soil before you plant your crop. MAKE SURE THAT YOU IRRIGATE BEFORE PLANTING YOUR CROP OR GET A GOOD RAIN IN BETWEEN FERTILIZING AND PLANTING THE VEGETABLES. The second fertilizer application is called SIDE-DRESSING, which occurs as the plants are growing.

## Specific Guidelines

### **Group I: *Sweet corn, Irish potatoes, Strawberries, Tomatoes***

1. Strawberries and potatoes produce well when the pH range is slightly lower between 5.2 and 6.0. Additional lime may not be needed.
2. Choose a fertilizer source as suggested and apply fertilizer evenly among plants based on the size of garden. Apply 1/2 to 2/3 of the total amount of nitrogen fertilizer recommended as a pre-plant application and the remaining amount as a side dress application. No side dressing of phosphate and potash fertilizers.
3. Generally for plants that produce flowers then fruit like the tomatoes and strawberries you want to side dress when the first fruit and flower cluster set on the plant.
4. For side-dressing, you will place the fertilizer about 8 inches away from the base of the plant on the side of the row and apply evenly. Incorporating the fertilizer into the ground is better than just applying on top of the soil.
5. Side dress corn when it is 12 inches tall and again when it is 24 inches tall. Do not side dress potatoes.

### **Group II: *Broccoli, Brussel sprouts, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrot, Cauliflower, Collards, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Parsley, Peppers (Hot), Peppers (Sweet), Pumpkin, Rutabaga, Shallots, Spinach, Squash, Turnip, Watermelon***

1. Most crops in the Group II vegetable category are medium feeders.
2. Preplant-apply 1/2 of total nitrogen fertilizer recommended and side-dressing apply the rest for most of the plants in the group. The exceptions are collards, mustards, and turnips, for which only 1/4 of nitrogen fertilizer should be reserved for side-dressing. No side-dressing of phosphate and potash fertilizers.
3. For plants that produce flowers then fruit like cucumber, cantaloupe, eggplant, peppers, pumpkin, squash, and watermelons you need to side-dress when the first fruit and flower cluster set on the plant.
4. Vegetables that have leafy greens such as the broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustards, parsley, and turnips you want to side-dress 3-4 weeks after planting and again 2-3 weeks after the first side dress fertilizer application.
5. Side-dress onions and shallots after growth has started (you see green tops emerging from the soil). Side dress again 3-4 weeks after the first application.

### **Group III: *Beans (snap, lima), Beets, Okra, Peas (Field), Radishes, Sweet potatoes***

1. Group III vegetables are low feeders. They do not need a lot of fertilizer to produce good yields.
2. Choose a fertilizer source as suggested and apply fertilizer evenly among plants based on the size of garden. Apply all fertilizers prior to the crop being planted. No side-dressing needed.