

## Organic Fertilizers

What if you could buy a plant food that was high in phosphorous, nitrogen, vitamins and minerals, and lasted in the soil, and was 100% organic? What are these amazing new products? Just something that has been used by generations of gardeners and something new. Bone meal, Blood meal, and Fish meal is the fertilizer that the products.

**Bone Meal-** is a phosphorous enriched fertilizer. Phosphorous is the middle of the three numbers you will find on any package of fertilizer. It stimulates root growth and flower and fruit production. The steamed, sterilized phosphorous in bone meal is not chemical fertilizer, and it is not soluble at all. It must be mixed into the soil at the time of planting so that the roots of the plant will grow into and through the bone meal.

Bone meal is used whenever you are planting anything expected to return. This includes trees, roses, evergreens, flowering shrubs, fruit trees, and especially perennials. Adding bone meal to your soil/peat moss blend below shrubs, trees, and perennials ensures that the root system will establish itself in the shortest possible time.

If the root system is strong and vigorous, the rest of the plant will follow suit. In areas where plants may be accidentally planted without bone meal, the situation can be remedied by pounding several holes around the plant a little deeper than the root system and pouring a 50-50 blend of bone meal/peat moss into them.

**Blood Meal-**A dried, powdered blood used as a high nitrogen fertilizer for gardens. Plants growing in soil lacking proper amounts of nitrogen will yellow from the leaves down due to nitrogen deficiency. Applying blood meal will help plants become green again.

Blood meal is a good source of food for your plants/garden and is reasonably effective at deterring nocturnal creatures. HOWEVER, blood meal attracts carrion eaters, and if you just sprinkle blood meal superficially, you will be attracting every crow in the county. Fence in the veggie garden, but plant some items that critters like outside and away

from the garden for their consumption. Surround your veggie garden with onions and herbs such as dill, lavender, and pungent herbs.

### **Fish Fertilizers**

Are an all natural way to supply an abundance of minerals and vitamins to your plants, whether you are growing roses, vegetables, fruits, ferns or even houseplants. There are three types of fish fertilizers: fish emulsion, fish meal, and hydrolyzed fish fertilizer. Each of these has specific benefits for your plants and is a rich source of concentrated nutrients.

**Fish Emulsion-**is a fertilizer that is a half decomposed mixture of finely ground up fish. Although the odor is very intense and fishy, it disappears within one or two days. Fish emulsion helps plants become stronger, more healthy, and larger, with more vibrant flowers that bloom. It is important to know though, that too much will cause plants to burn.

**Fish Meal-**is a fish fertilizer created from dried fish waste, where the rancid oil is removed and preservatives are added. This is a slow release fertilizer it is beneficial for leafy plants. Fish meal is also a good source for micro nutrients and provides food for good bacteria in soil, resulting in larger, stronger plant growth. Fish meal fertilizer also allows the stored protein (nitrogen) to latch onto the plant, not the soil, resulting in more successful fertilizing. Fish meal must be worked into the soil and heavily watered.

**Hydrolyzed Fish-**is the newest fish fertilizer product on the market and is created from fish waste that has been diced and digested with enzymes before phosphoric acid is added. This type of fertilizer is made from unwanted fish that are caught by accident in the fishing process. It has a lower pH than fish emulsion, so it preserves more vitamins, proteins, and micro nutrients than the other two fish fertilizers. Hydrolyzed fish has all of the main nutritional elements of a whole fish. It is easy for the plant to consume. This fish fertilizer also has no odor and is applied as a soil drench or spray. Hydrolyzed fish works as a food source for good soil fungi.