

B.U.G.S. WORKSHOP April 5 & 8, 2007

Organic fertilizers and a Home-Made Blend

The following is a List of organic fertilizers.

We generally look for the following three main plant nutrients in fertilizers.

Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K)

N = for greening up – stems and foliage

P = for early root development - then flower and fruit formation

K = for strong stems and leaves and to promote vigour and disease resistance

The following fertilizers and soil modifiers will enrich the soil with approximately the ratios of plant nutrients shown.

<u>Fertilizer</u>	<u>= N - P - K</u>
alfalfa pellets	= 2.5-0.5-2.0
blood meal	= 11-0-0
bonemeal	= 1-11-0
compost	= 1-1-1
cottonseed meal	= 6-2-1
fish meal	= 10.5-6-0
granite meal	= 1-4% total potash (potassium)
greensand	= 6-7% total potash(potassium)
kelp meal	= 1.0-0.5-2.5
limestone	= soil modifier; calcium (increases alkalinity)
peat moss	= soil modifier; (increases acidity, water retention)
soybean meal	= 7.0-0.5-2.5
superphosphate	= 0-20-0
wood ash	= 0-1.5-8

To calculate the ratios in a home-made blend, add ratio of each element and divide by total number of cups. In the following example, each cup of this home made fertilizer contains 3.2 parts (N), 5.9 parts (P) and 2.0 parts (K). This is considered a balanced fertilizer for growing vegetables.

	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)
2 cups of bloodmeal	22.0	0.0	0.0
4 cups of bonemeal	4.0	44.0	0.0
2 cups of wood ash	0.0	3.0	16.0
8 cups Total	26.0	47.0	16.0
Divide by 8	3.2	5.9	2.0