

QUALITY FEED AND GARDEN COMPANY BUILDING HEALTHY SOIL

All gardeners hope for healthy plants and bountiful harvests. At Quality Feed & Garden, we help you build healthy soil allowing plant roots to move and grow freely, ensuring stronger plant growth and increasing production. Having healthy, nutrient-rich soil will ensure your success in the garden. Many of our fertilizers and soil amendments are available by the pound and in larger bags. Ask us how to improve your soil quality today.

CREATING HEALTHY SOIL

In Houston, we typically are faced with "gumbo," a clay soil that feels sticky when rubbed between your fingers. Gumbo tends to be full of nutrients but heavy, holding excessive water, and having poor aeration. Improving gumbo soil requires the additions of organic matter like our *peat moss*, *compost*, and *manure*. Organic matter needs to be most of your finished soil tilled in at least 8 inches. Many gardeners simply add organic matter on top of our gumbo soil in "raised" beds to 12 inches rather than spend time cultivating the gumbo. Continually adding organic matter builds healthy soil.

The term pH is a measurement of the acidity or alkalinity of soil. Proper pH allows plants to absorb nutrients from the soil. A neutral pH of 7.0 is important for vegetables and many shrubs and trees. Citrus, azaleas, camelias and many tropicals thrive in more acidic soils with a pH of 5.5 to 6.0. Our *dolomite limestone* raises pH, and our *powdered sulfur* can help create lower levels. We offer free pH soil testing and recommend that you have your soil tested regularly to ensure the proper pH for what you're growing. Ask about our free pH testing today!

The conservation of moisture is vital in Houston's hot humid climate. We offer *cypress mulch* (*won't float away in a heavy, rain*) *alfalfa*, and *coastal hay* to protect your plants' roots year round and enrich your soil with organic matter as they break down. Add SIX inches of mulch at least twice a year to ensure your plants insulation against Houston's heat and to prevent weeds. Alfalfa and hay break down readily and serve the added function of building organic matter that improves your soil.

FERTILIZER NOTES

Plants require fertilizer for survival and increased productivity. Nutrients should be added to the soil regularly. Nitrogen (N) encourages the plant to grow and makes it dark green. Phosphorus (P) stimulates the roots and helps the plant produce more blooms. Potassium (K) helps make the plant stronger and more disease resistant.

Fertilizers are either organic or inorganic, and we offer complete selections of both types to meet your needs. On fertilizer labels, you'll see three sets of numbers such as 12-24-12, which refers to levels of N-P-K. Use a high nitrogen fertilizer for lawns and vegetables that don't bloom, and a high phosphorus fertilizer for flowering or fruiting plants. Foliage plants prefer an equally-balanced fertilizer.

Your lawn, shade trees and shrubs require fertilizer when they begin to grow each spring, and at their peak in early summer. Fruit and nut trees require fertilizer when new growth begins in spring, and again immediately following harvest. Vegetables require fertilizer at least once a month.

All trees, shrubs and lawns should be fertilized in late fall with "winterizer" The fertilizers are applied after the plants are at rest. Some nutrition is used and keeps plants strong, and the rest remains in the soil to be used when growth starts again in early spring.

ORGANIC SOIL BUILDERS

Coastal Hay (N-P-K)

Cottonseed Meal (N-P-K)

Gypsum (Loosens heavy soil)

Medina Products including *Gro N Green* Granules

Milorganite (N-P-K but only for lawns and flowers)

Peat Moss: 2.2 CF & 3.8 CF

Perlite

Mulch: Cedar, Cypress & Pine Bark

Spagnum Moss

Sulfur (Soil Acidifier)

Vermiculite and much more.

Ask to review our *Nature's Guide* Brochure for more outstanding organic gardening solutions that protect your kids, pets and our planet!

SYNTHETIC FERTILIZERS

Introducing *NITRO-PHOS*: made in Houston for Houston lawns, gardens, shrubs and trees.

→ 21-0-0 (Ammonium Sulfate), 45-0-0 (Urea), 0-18-0 (Superphosphate), 0-46-0 (Triple Superphosphate), 0-0-60 (Potash), 12-24-12 Blend, 13-13-13 Blend

Lawn Foods from *NITRO PHOS*:

→ *Weed & Feed* (containing Trimec) 15-5-10

→ *Superturf* 19-4-1 0: Lasts 12 weeks!

→ *Imperial Lawn Food* 15-5-1 0 with Iron

→ *Fall Special Winterizer* 18-6-12

→ Other Specialty Plant Foods

→ *Rose Food* 18-12-6

→ *Azalea, Camelia Food* 8-12-1 0

→ *Tree & Shrub* 16-4-8

→ *Fruit, Citrus & Pecan Food* 16-8-4

Mineral Supplements:

→ Iron Sulfate

→ Magnesium Sulfate

→ Zinc Sulfate

Additional Fertilizer Offerings:

- *Fertilome*
- *Hi- Yield*
- *Miracle Gro*
- *Osmocote*