

Organic Garden Fertilization 101

Option A: Get your soil analysed and Farmer Jo will make you a custom fertilizer plan

The best way to do this is to get your soil tested once every 3 years

- Take 10-20 handfuls of soil from different spots in your garden (make sure to exclude any chunks of compost, plant matter, or fertiliser), mix them well in a plastic bucket and make a 1 cup composite sample that is representative of the top 6 inches of your garden soil.
- Go to www.agriquanta.com/blank-6 and fill out and print the Analysis Request Form (available in French and English)
- Send in 1 cup of soil and your completed form to : Agri Quanta, 74 av Dansereau, St-Ours, QC, JOG 1P0
- When you get your results, forward them to info@ottawafarmfresh.com, and Farmer Jo will make you a custom garden fertiliser plan that meets the specific needs of your soil and crop.

Option B: Estimate your needs using this chart

- If you choose not to get your soil analysed (not recommended), follow the chart below to estimate your fertiliser needs.
- The risks of not getting your soil tested are that you really have zero idea what it actually needs.
- **Even if you fertilise your garden lots it may not produce a good crop if you don't actually know what's in your soil.** For example, if:
 - Your soil pH is not between 6 and 7 (pH is a measure of acidity). Certain nutrients will be rendered unavailable, even if there's plenty present.
 - In many high fertility gardens one of the cations will be disproportionately high (the main cations are Magnesium, Potassium, Calcium) If your soil is out of balance, certain elements will be unavailable to the plant, even if there's plenty in the soil and in your fertiliser.

Light Feeder Crops (LF)	Medium Feeder Crops (MF)	Heavy Feeder Crops (HF)
Pre-planting fertilisation only	Preplant + 1 side dressing 2 weeks later	Preplant + sidedressing after 2 weeks & 6 weeks
Lettuce, Arugula, Radishes, Peas, Beans, Carrots, Herbs, Flowers, Scallions	Onions, Beets, Spinach	Solanaceae crops (Tomatoes, Peppers, Potatoes, Tobacco, Eggplants) Large Brassica Crops (Cabbage, Kale, Broccoli, Cauliflower, etc) Corn, Cucurbit Crops (Cucumbers, Squash, Melons, Zucchini, etc)

The following fertiliser doses are for a 4ft x 8ft garden bed. **WARNING:** Even if you fertilise your garden lots, it may not produce a good crop if you don't actually know what's in your soil. Please get your soil tested!

	Low Fertility Garden (New Garden)	Medium Fertility Garden (5 year garden)	High Fertility Garden (5-10 year garden)	Hyper Fertile Garden (10+ years)
Before planting (All)	16 lbs Biosol Shrimp Compost	13 lbs Biosol Shrimp Compost	0.5 lb Actisol 5-3-2 (pelleted chicken manure)+0.5 lb Shrimp Meal	0.75 lb Actisol 5-3-2 (pelleted chicken manure)
2 weeks after planting (MF and HF)	1 lb Actisol 4-6-8 (pelleted chicken manure)	1 lb Actisol 5-3-2 (pelleted chicken manure)	0.5 lb Actisol 5-3-2 (pelleted chicken manure)+0.25 lb Blood Meal	0.25 lb Blood Meal
6 weeks after planting (HF)	1 lb Actisol 4-6-8 (pelleted chicken manure)	1 lb Actisol 5-3-2 (pelleted chicken manure)	0.5 lb Actisol 5-3-2 (pelleted chicken manure)+0.25 lb Blood Meal	0.25 lb Blood Meal