



FERTILISER FOR HOME GARDENS

In order to grow healthily, plants need sunlight, carbon dioxide, water and nutrients. These nutrients include nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), sulphur (S), magnesium (Mg) and calcium (Ca), plus a range of trace elements. While most soils have some of these nutrients, they don't always have enough for plant growth. The nutrients get removed from the soil by plants and by natural biological and chemical activity.

As a result, nutrients need to be returned to the soil so that plants can grow successfully. Some nutrients can be added to soil in organic matter, e.g. when compost is dug in, but this may not supply enough of all the nutrients needed in a high-producing garden. In these situations, more concentrated fertilisers are a good solution.

YaraMila Complex

YaraMila Complex is particularly suitable for use on home gardens. It contains:

12.4% N 5.0% P 14.7% K 8.0% S 1.7% Mg 2.9% Ca

and a range of trace elements, including boron, iron, manganese and zinc. YaraMila Complex is imported into New Zealand from Norway. 'Mila' comes from an old Norse word that means success. YaraMila Complex is easy to use and provides very even nutrient delivery to plants.

Applying fertiliser

Fertiliser should be applied to damp soil and watered in well. This helps to avoid the concentrated nutrients burning plant roots. Avoid applying fertiliser directly on to plants, and especially avoid contact with seeds and seedlings.

Rather than trying to apply a lot of fertiliser at once, apply little and often. Store unused fertiliser in a cool, dry place.

Fertiliser application programmes for using YaraMila Complex on some common home garden crops are listed overleaf.

- One cup (250 ml) holds about 200 g of fertiliser
- A typical handful of fertiliser is about 40 g.

Lime and gypsum

As well as fertiliser, gardeners may need to apply lime. This is not a fertiliser but a soil amendment. Soils naturally become more acidic over time; adding lime helps to reverse this. Often called a soil sweetener, lime promotes soil microbial activity, which speeds up the breakdown of organic matter, a process that also releases nutrients that can be used by plants.

Gypsum is a natural mineral that acts as both a soil conditioner and a fertiliser, although it only supplies sulphur and calcium. Gypsum does not change the soil pH, but can help improve soil structure. It is especially useful for soils that are high in clay as it causes the tiny clay particles to flocculate together, so forming larger aggregates. This helps to allow water and air to enter the soil, creating a more favourable environment for biological activity, e.g. for worms, micro-organisms and plant roots.



Using YaraMila Complex in home gardens

VEGETABLE	1ST APPLICATION	2ND APPLICATION	3RD APPLICATION
Beans	40 g/m ² – broadcast at planting		
Brassicas – broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower	80 g/m ² – broadcast at planting	40 g/m ² – sidedress 30 days after planting	40 g/m ² – sidedress 60 days after planting (except broccoli)
Capsicum	40 g/m ² – broadcast at planting	40 g/m ² – sidedress after first fruit set	40 g/m ² – sidedress after first fruit harvest
Cucurbits – cucumber, pumpkin, rockmelon, squash, watermelon	40 g/m ² – broadcast at planting	40 g/m ² – sidedress at start of running	
Lettuce, spinach	80 g/m ² – broadcast at planting	40 g/m ² – sidedress 30 days after planting	40 g/m ² – sidedress 60 days after planting
Onion, garlic	30 g/m ² – broadcast at planting	30 g/m ² – sidedress at 2nd leaf	30 g/m ² – sidedress at 4th leaf
Potato	80 g/m ² – in furrow at planting	80 g/m ² – in furrow when plants are 10-15 cm tall	
Roots – beetroot, carrot, parsnip, swede, turnip	40 g/m ² – broadcast at planting	40 g/m ² – sidedress when plants are 10 cm tall	
Sweet corn	40 g/m ² – broadcast at planting	40 g/m ² – sidedress when plants are 30 cm tall	
Tomato	40 g/m ² – broadcast at planting	40 g/m ² – sidedress after first truss set	40 g/m ² – sidedress after first truss harvest

FRUIT	1ST APPLICATION	2ND APPLICATION	3RD APPLICATION
Boysenberry, raspberry, strawberry	40 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone at planting	40 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone after first fruit has set	
Fruit trees (1-3 years)	40 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone in August	40 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone in October	40 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone in November
Fruit trees (4+ years)	80 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone in September	80 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone in December	
Grapes, kiwifruit	40 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone in October	40 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone in December (kiwifruit only)	

OTHER	1ST APPLICATION	2ND APPLICATION	3RD APPLICATION
Lawns*	30 g/m ² – broadcast in October	30 g/m ² – broadcast in March	
Ornamentals	40 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone in early spring	40 g/m ² – broadcast in drip zone at end of first flowering	

*Use a 50:50 mix of YaraMila Complex and sulphate of ammonia

