

Tips for Fertilizing the Vegetable Garden

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- Broadcast fertilizer over entire garden before planting.
- Band fertilizer along plant rows at planting: 2-3" to the side & 1-2" below seed level or plant row.
- During the growing season, you may need to apply fertilizer 2-3 more times at half the banded rate shown in the table. Apply the fertilizer just beyond the outside leaves (edge of plant canopy).
- Slow release nitrogen fertilizer will reduce the number of fertilizer applications needed.
- A 10-0-10 fertilizer is a good choice because phosphorus is usually plentiful in Florida soils & therefore not generally needed.
- Soil test kits are available from the Extension Office. Testing the pH and available nutrients is recommended every 1-3 years so gardeners can replace only the missing nutrients and prevent over-liming.
- In addition to fertilizers, adding 25 to 100 pounds of compost or composted animal manure per 100 square feet is recommended, especially for sandy, infertile soils.

Use this guide when deciding how much to apply:

Fertilizer Grade	Amount to broadcast per 100 sq feet	Amount to band per 10 feet of row
6-6-6	3 lbs (6 cups)	5 oz ($< 3/4$ cup)
8-8-8	2.5 lbs (5 cups)	4.5 oz ($2/3$ cup)
10-10-10	2 lbs (4 cups)	4 oz ($1/2$ cup)
10-0-10	2 lbs (4 cups)	4 oz ($1/2$ cup)
15-0-15	1.25 lbs (2.5 cups)	3 oz ($1/3$ cup)