



## Binley Woods Allotments And Gardens Association



### Fertiliser Information

#### **Fish Blood & Bone**

Fish, blood and bonemeal is a general fertiliser that supplies the three most important plant foods – nitrogen for leaf and shoot growth; phosphates for root development, and potassium for flower and fruit production.

Use it at the rate of one or two handfuls to the square metre (yard) during the growing season and one week before sowing or planting.

It is an organic fertiliser which encourages bacterial activity within the soil. Inorganic fertilizers supply more concentrated nutrition which the plant can utilize more rapidly, but they make beneficial soil bacteria (which would otherwise break down the stuff) redundant. Use inorganic fertilisers (such as **sulphate of ammonia**) to give crops a rapid boost, and organic fertiliser to improve fertility.

#### **Sulphate of Iron**

Sulphate of Iron is used for lawn improvement, moss control and for creating the acidic soils needed by lime-hating plants such as rhododendrons, azaleas and heathers.

It darkens the lawn grasses and improves their appearance. Used regularly, it gradually increases the acidity of the soil, which discourages some weeds and favours the finer grasses. It helps to protect the lawn against some common diseases and controls moss and algae growth.

As it is soluble in water, a convenient 'moss killer' can be made by dissolving 1oz in 2 gallons of water and applying this from a plastic watering can with a fine rose of 4 square metres in spring and autumn. In spring, the inclusion of sulphate of ammonia (2oz) will boost the growth of the grass but this should be omitted from the autumn treatment so that the grass will harden off for the winter.

#### **Lawn Sand**

Lawn sand is used as a top dressing for lawns, mixed with peat and brushed or raked in. One bucketful will do about six metres or yards during autumn.

#### **Sulphate of Potash**

Sulphate of potash is just the job for getting plants to flower and fruit well. Use it on plants that are well established and coming into flower and fruit – tomatoes, dahlias and other greedy types. Half a clenched handful to the square metre (yard) is ample.

#### **Bonemeal**

Bonemeal is high in phosphates, but to be fair, most of them are held on to so tightly by the soil that few are made available to the plants. Bonemeal is always recommended as a suitable fertiliser to dust around the hole when you're planting trees and shrubs, but in reality the plants probably see little benefit.

#### **Superphosphate**

Phosphates are vital in helping root development and the quick establishment of young and recently moved plants. Vegetables, especially peas, potatoes, onions and root crops benefit from them and a regular dressing encourages the vigour and colour of outdoor bulbs and flowers. Phosphates also encourage the early maturing fruit.

Superphosphate may be applied all year round as a base dressing before sowing or planting. Sprinkle it evenly over the whole area (2oz per sq. yd) and work into the top 4" of soil with a fork or hoe. As a top dressing to established plants, sprinkle over the whole area covered by the branch spread of established bushes or trees (2oz per sq. yd.) Hoe or rake

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in and if dry water it for maximum benefit. Do not apply as a heap at the base of the stem and shake off any that lodges on the foliage.

#### **Sulphate of Ammonia**

Sulphate of ammonia is high in nitrogen which boosts plant growth. Leafy crops will enjoy a light dusting over the surrounding soil in spring and summer.

Apply very sparingly at the rate of half a clenched handful to the square metre (yard) and use it only between March and August when plants are actively growing. It's also useful to keep bacteria fuelled in the compost bin.

#### **Nitrate of Chalk**

Mixture of nitrate and chalk comes in granule's form, very quickly acting. Good for giving good heads in the Brassica range, use sparingly.

Nitrate of chalk (Nitro-Chalk) used sparingly in spring and summer for top dressing, put only a small amount around your plants a couple of pinches, good for producing good heads on certain vegetables, cauliflower & cabbage.