



FERTILIZING YOUNG TREES & SHRUBS

Large, well-established trees rarely need fertilizing, but newly planted trees and shrubs enjoy an early spring feeding, especially during their first five years. Fertilize evergreen trees and shrubs, including rhododendrons, azaleas and other broad-leaved evergreens, with an acid-type rhododendron fertilizer like Miracid Azalea Food. Apply it at the drip line of the plant. Fertilize deciduous trees and shrubs with an all-purpose, balanced garden-type fertilizer. No matter which fertilizer you choose, always read and follow the labeled directions and apply as directed on the package. Here are some general rules when applying fertilizers.

- 1) Again, always read and follow the directions on the label.
Apply the fertilizer only as directed. More is NOT better!
- 2) Granular or dry-type fertilizers should usually be watered in.
- 3) Fertilizers should be applied to moist soils so they won't burn the feeder roots.
- 4) Apply fertilizers at the drip line where feeder roots are situated.
- 5) Distribute fertilizers evenly.
- 6) Trees and shrubs need a balanced diet of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Nitrogen encourages the growth of healthy, dark green leaves. It also promotes trunk and branch growth. Phosphorus is responsible for flower production and root growth. Potassium is important for the overall strength and health of the plant.