

Natural Soil Amendment Guide

When considering what fertilizers you may need it is always advisable to have your soil tested first.

A short list of popular natural soil amendments, all available at The Farm Store:

Alfalfa Meal & Pellets (2.5 – 0 - 0)

Roses love Alfalfa meal/pellets! It is also good fertilizer for most other plants & lawns. It adds a little nitrogen, some vitamins & minerals, and organic matter into the soil. Organic matter added to the soil feeds micro organisms who in turn feed plants' roots, and create spaces in the soil for air & water. (Adding organic matter to soil leads to less compacted, less clay, and less acidic soils!)

Bone Meal (3 - 15 - 0)

Bone meal has been used as fertilizer for hundreds if not thousands of years, and it is an excellent fertilizer. It offers a bit of Nitrogen, and a lot of Phosphorus, which your flowers, fruits, and vegetables will love!

Blood Meal (13 - 0 - 0)

Blood meal is higher in Nitrogen than any of the other natural soil amendments. It will stimulate rapid growth of leaves, branches, and shoots. It will green up grass and promote tree growth. It may also repel deer and moles.

(Feather meal is the next highest Nitrogen rich natural fertilizer.)

Cottonseed Meal (5-2-1)

This is an old tried and true natural fertilizer. It is slightly acidic, so it makes a great fertilizer for Rhodies, Azaleas, Camellias, and Blueberries. It is an excellent fertilizer for most other plants also, if you add a little lime to balance the acidity.

Canola Meal or Linseed (Flax seed) Meal (5.5 -0-0)

These are alternatives to Cottonseed Meal. They provide Nitrogen and Organic Matter.

Chicken Manure (3-2-2 Composted or 4-3-3 Pelletized or Granulated)

Our Chicken manure is an excellent well balanced natural fertilizer. It is available in: 1 cf composted form or, 50# pelletized, or 40# granular.

Corn Gluten Meal (10 - 0 - 0)

Some say Corn Gluten Meal works like a natural Weed & Feed. It may suppress weed seed germination, and it fertilizes established plants. It is a great lawn fertilizer, and it does a great job of keeping weeds from taking over your garden beds. One 50# bag will cover approximately 2,500 sq. ft. (Do not use anywhere that you actually want to grow from seed!)

Diatomaceous Earth

It is used for natural insect control. It is chemically inert and harmless, but it shouldn't be inhaled. It won't harm people or animals (unless inhaled), but it causes insects to dehydrate & die!

Feather Meal (12 - 0 - 0)

Feather meal is the second highest Nitrogen rich natural fertilizer, and it is relatively economical compared to the other two natural Nitrogen rich fertilizers (Blood & Fish Meals). It works great and has been quite popular. It is not as attractive to animals as Fish or Blood meals can be, either.

Fish Meal (10 - 4.5 - 0)

Plants love fish meal! It has been used as fertilizer forever because it works so well! It is quite high in nitrogen, and adds some phosphorus, too. It's pretty smelly, but the plants don't seem to care. (Occasionally dogs and cats have been attracted to it.)

Fish Bone Meal (4 - 20 - 0)

This adds a **lot** of Phosphorus and a bit of Nitrogen, too. This is the most Phosphorus rich natural fertilizer.

Glacial Rock Dust (0 - 0 - 0 + about 50 TM)

Glacial Rock Dust's are chock full of many trace minerals, which will make your flowers more vibrantly colored, and will make fruits and vegetables taste better! These are made of natural ground rock, and they re-mineralize the soil! I never garden without them.

Gypsum (Calcium Sulfate)

Gypsum adds calcium & sulfur, both essential plant nutrients, to the soil without altering the soil pH. The best thing about Gypsum is that it will naturally break up clay soils over time! Add it every year and see your soil improve!

Jersey Greensand (0-0-3 + TM)

Greensand is a natural soil amendment from the Atlantic coast of America. It adds a bit of Potassium and Trace Minerals, and is a less expensive alternative to Kelp Meal. It is also quite pretty.

Kelp Meal (1 - 0 - 3 + TM & Vit's) - Quick release

Kelp meal is wonderful fertilizer. It has been used forever and all plants seem to love it. It is a very mild fertilizer that provides a little Potassium, and many Trace Minerals, Vitamins, Growth Hormones, and other interesting natural substances.

K-Mag (0-0-22)

Also known as Sul-Po-Mag. It is a naturally occurring deposit containing Sulfur, Potassium, & Magnesium. More Potassium than a homeowner would need, just for larger farms.

Lime (Calcium Carbonate, Magnesium Carbonate)

Lime corrects the pH in Acid soils, which most of us in the Willamette Valley have! We carry several forms of lime that are suitable to your gardens and landscapes. Come on in and let us help you decide what kind of Lime is best for you!

Nature's Intent 9-3-4, Par-4 9-3-7, Nature's Safe 8-5-5 * add Bone-Meal

Excellent organic premixed fertilizers. They are granulated or pelletized so they are easy to spread. The 9-3-4 & 9-3-7 are great for lawns, shrubs, trees, and perennials. The 8-5-5 is all-purpose, for vegetables, fruits, and landscapes.

Rock Phosphate (0 - 3 - 0) *alternative to Bone-Meal with no results the 1st year.

Rock phosphate (ours is "colloidal" or "soft") adds phosphorus to the soil, which is a necessary plant nutrient. It is natural, slow release, and adds phosphorus without adding animal products, if that is what you wish.