

# N-P-K

## *What do those letters mean?*

**N** Nitrogen promotes leaf development and plant growth.

**P** Phosphorous is critical for root development and blooming and fruiting.

**K** Potassium (also called potash) is important for overall plant health and disease resistance.

The numbers next to those letters on the fertilizer label indicate the percentage of that nutrient in the product. Organic fertilizers generally contain other minerals and nutrients which are also beneficial to the plants. Chemical fertilizers can have any number of filler materials. The fillers are necessary to dilute the nutrient concentration, so it doesn't 'burn' or otherwise damage the plants.

A soil test kit can give you a rough idea of what nutrients are in your soil, and what is missing. For a more detailed analysis, you can have your soil tested through the county extension agency for a fee. Once you have your analysis, you can make a smarter decision about what type of fertilizer you need.

By fertilizing your garden, you replenish lost nutrients and ensure that your plants have the food they need to flourish.



## **McCord's Garden Center and Landscaping**

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