



Fertilizer Schedule: July to December

Starting in July, a thoughtful fertilizer routine becomes essential to maintain bloom, fruit, and root development through the rest of the year. This checklist guides you through each month's tasks, offering a practical and consistent approach for healthier soil and plants.

July - Peak Feeding

- ☐ Fertilize fruiting crops like squash, cucumbers, peppers, and tomatoes biweekly
- ☐ Feed roses with a slow-release organic rose fertilizer
- ☐ Use diluted liquid fertilizer on hanging baskets, pots, and window boxes
- ☐ Apply compost tea or seaweed extract during heat waves for gentle nourishment
- ☐ Monitor for yellowing leaves or poor fruit set-signs of nutrient imbalance

August - Light Touch

- ☐ Apply diluted compost tea or fish emulsion to stressed plants
- ☐ Feed any fall veggie seedlings (if planted) with low-dose liquid fertilizer
- ☐ Avoid fertilizing lawns, tomatoes, or annuals aggressively-heat stress reduces uptake
- ☐ Water deeply after feeding to prevent root burn
- ☐ Top-dress veggie beds with worm castings or finished compost

September - Prepare for Dormancy

- ☐ Feed fall veggies (like cabbage, Brussels sprouts, and kale) with balanced organic fertilizer
- ☐ Apply 0-10-10 fertilizer to perennials, shrubs, and roses
- ☐ Fertilize fruit trees post-harvest if they weren't fed earlier
- ☐ Begin tapering off container feeding
- ☐ Add bone meal or kelp meal around bulbs for strong root development

October - Last Call

- ☐ Apply aged compost or worm castings around flower beds and shrubs
- ☐ Mulch over root zones after feeding to lock in warmth and nutrients
- ☐ Feed overwintering crops like garlic and onions lightly
- ☐ Avoid feeding warm-season veggies or flowers-they're wrapping up
- ☐ Clean and store your fertilizer tools



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November - Compost Blanket

- ☐ Spread finished compost across all garden beds and borders
- ☐ Add mulch layers (leaves, straw, pine needles) to insulate soil
- ☐ Mix in rock phosphate or greensand if your soil test recommends it
- ☐ Feed overwintered garlic with kelp meal or compost tea
- ☐ Do not fertilize indoor citrus or potted plants unless under grow lights

December - Reflect & Rest

- ☐ Review fertilizer notes in your garden journal or app
- ☐ Clean and store all fertilizer tools and containers
- ☐ Make a fertilizer shopping list for spring
- ☐ Start planning your crop rotations and new plantings
- ☐ Enjoy a well-earned break-you've fed your garden well this year

From July's feeding frenzy to December's pause and reflection, a thoughtful fertilizer routine can transform your garden's performance and resilience. By aligning your feeding habits with the natural rhythms of your plants-and adjusting for seasonal stress like heat or dormancy-you'll encourage stronger roots, more abundant blooms, and healthier soil. Stick with this monthly guide, and you'll build a garden that not only thrives in the moment but gets better with every passing year.