

## Spring Is The Time To Fertilize Trees & Shrubs, Horticulturist Says

Trees and flowering shrubs are best fertilized in the early spring before the leaves come out, according to Robert T. Stevens, extension horticulturist at the University of Delaware. If evergreens need fertilizing, do it in the spring also, he says.

Nitrogen is the most important element in the fertilizer for trees, so fertilizers should contain as much or more nitrogen as phosphorus and potassium. Ratios such as 10-6-4 and 10-10-10 are excellent. Soluble fertilizers applied in liquid form give excellent distribution of fertilizer, but are not as convenient to apply in the small amounts needed for home grounds.

Use one to two pounds of fertilizer for each inch of tree diameter, Stevens recommends. Measure the diameter about two or three feet from

the ground. Use the smaller amount of fertilizer for young trees, and the larger amount for older trees.

To apply fertilizer, make holes approximately one foot deep and two feet apart with an iron bar, sharp stake or flat spade. Start the holes about three feet from the trunk and continue making them beyond the spread of the branches. Place two heaping tablespoons of fertilizer in each hole; any left over may be broadcast over the surface area.

Newly planted trees should not have any mineral fertilizer at planting, Stevens advises. Use good top soil and compost to fill around the roots, and this will be all that is required the first year.

Flowering shrubs need the same fertilizers as trees, but in smaller amounts. Fertilizers with ratios such as 10-

6-4, 5-10-10 and 10-10-10 are all used. If you are buying a fertilizer especially for trees and shrubs, buy the one with the highest nitrogen content, Stevens recommends.

Sprinkle fertilizer evenly over the ground under shrubs; be careful not to get any fertilizer close to the shrub stems. Work the fertilizer lightly into the soil with a rake, but do not disturb the roots.

Use a fourth to a half cup of fertilizer for each square yard of ground under the shrub. A half cup should be used on shrubs needing rejuvenation; the smaller amount is needed for shrubs which are growing well.

It is very easy to over-fertilize evergreens and thereby cause plant injury, Stevens warns. Proper soil preparation is essential for evergreens and should come before fertilization. Most soils are improved by adding peat moss, leaf mold or other humus, particularly if broadleaf

evergreens are going to be planted.

If fertilization is needed, use a low analysis fertilizer. Ratios such as 3-2-1, 4-6-4 and 6-10-4 are common. The higher nitrogen ratios are excellent for broadleaf evergreens, if used cautiously, Stevens points out. Cotton seed meal is also used as fertilizer for evergreens.

Low analysis fertilizers and cotton seed meal are used at a rate of a half cup per square yard. The higher nitrogen fertilizers should be used at one-fourth cup per square yard.

Although fertilizer recommendations are a useful guide, the plant itself is the most important guide, Stevens asserts.

There must be something to reincarnation judging by the way some people come back to life at quitting time.

## Farm Women No. 3 At Monthly Meeting

The Society of Farm Women, Group No. 3, held its regular monthly meeting recently at Mellinger's Lutheran Church, Schoeneck.

Contributions were voted to the American Cancer Society, Crippled Children, or Easter Seal funds.

Ephrata Recreation Center fund drive for the coming Diamond Jubilee of the Borough of Ephrata was subscribed to.

Program chairman Mrs. Harold Stuber announced that tickets were purchased for the Harlem Globetrotters' appearance at Hershey on March 25 as a treat for husbands of the Society.

Miss Alva Stuber introduced Miss John Bonson of Lincoln who reviewed the book "Wandering Through Winter," by Edwin Wiy Teale.

Mrs. Lloyd W. Martin and Miss Marian Martin were hostesses for the meeting.

The next meeting of Group 3 women will be at the home of Mrs. Samuel M. Mohler on April 16.

## PENN MANOR 4-H CLUB NAMES OFFICERS

Richard Wartel was elected president of the Penn Manor 4-H Community Club Tuesday at a meeting at the Letoit School.

Other officers elected were Linda Porter, vice president; Connie Stehman, secretary; Peggy Eshleman, assistant secretary; Richard Thomas, treasurer.

Philip Stehman, news reporter, Sandy Stehman and Doris Hainish, song leaders; Nancy Hainish and Gary Porter, game leaders; and county council representatives, Linda Porter, Gary Porter and Betty Jane Bailey.

The next meeting will be held April 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Letoit School.

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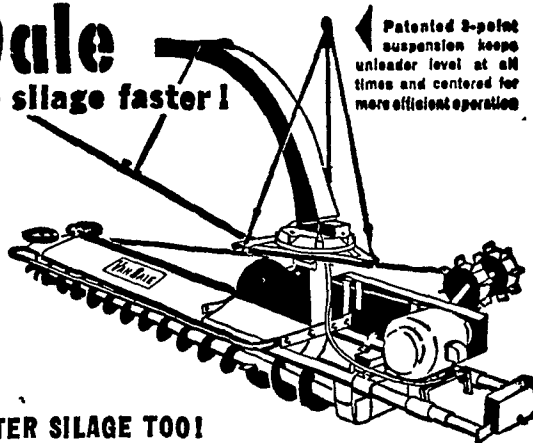
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