

ANNUAL FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS IN POUNDS FOR CITRUS TREES

All citrus except grapefruit ¹	Years after planting	Pounds of actual nitrogen required each year ²	Percentage nitrogen contained in various fertilizers ³						
			5 Blood Meal	10	15	21 Ammonium Sulfate	25	33 Ammonium Nitrate	46 Urea
Newly planted ⁴	0 - 1	0 - 0.12	0 - 2.5	0 - 1.25	0 - .75	0 - .5	0 - .5	0 - .33	0 - .25
Young	1 - 2	0.25	5.0	2.5	1.75	1.25	1.0	0.75	0.5
Small, young	2 - 3	0.50	10.0	5.0	3.33	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0
Mid-size young	3 - 4	0.75	15.0	7.5	5.0	3.75	3.0	2.25	1.5
Small adult or adult dwarf	4 - 5	1.0	20.0	10.0	6.75	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0
Mid-size adult or fully grown adult, trimmed	5 - 6	1.25	25.0	12.5	8.33	6.25	5.0	3.75	2.5
Large, fully grown adult, untrimmed	6 +	1.5	30.0	15.0	10.0	7.5	6.0	4.5	3.0

¹ Grapefruit trees five or more years after planting: use half of amounts shown.

² Pounds of fertilizer are rounded to the nearest quarter- or third-pound for ease of calculation.

³ Fertilizer products have three numbers on the package, e.g., 15-30-15. The first number is nitrogen content.

⁴ Newly planted trees usually require no fertilizer; however, you may apply small amounts of nitrogen after tree is established and new growth has emerged.

HOW TO USE THE FERTILIZER TABLE

1. In the left column of the table, find a description of the tree you plan to fertilize. The total pounds of actual nitrogen recommended for this tree for one year is indicated in a column to the right. Since no fertilizer is 100 percent nitrogen, use the chart to determine the amount of a specific type of fertilizer to use.

2. Look at the top edge of the table for the percent nitrogen that your fertilizer contains. By regulation, every container of fertilizer must have 3 numbers written on it. The first number indicates the percent nitrogen, the second the percent phosphorus, and the third the percent potassium. (For example: 21-0-0 has 21 percent nitrogen, no phosphorus and no potassium.)

3. The intersection of the row describing your tree and the column indicating percent nitrogen in your fertilizer is the number of pounds of that product to use during the entire year for that tree.

4. Give one-third of the yearly total of fertilizer during January-February, one-third during April-May, and one-third during August-September. (This is to prevent loss of nitrogen from the root zone and environmental concerns regarding the leaching of nitrates into groundwater.)

EXAMPLE 1: You have a young tree, planted one year ago and a bag of ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) that has 21 percent nitrogen. Find the row for a young tree. Find the column for 21 percent nitrogen. They meet at the number 1.25 lbs. Therefore, apply 1.25 lbs. ammonium sulfate during the year. Apply one-third of that amount (about 0.4 lbs.) during Jan-Feb, one-third in Apr-May, and one-third in Aug-Sep.

EXAMPLE 2: You have a mid-sized adult grapefruit tree, planted 5 years ago and "citrus food" fertilizer with 10 percent nitrogen. The row for this tree and the column for 10 percent nitrogen intersect at 12.5 lbs. Note that mature grapefruit trees require only half of the amounts listed. Therefore, the year's total will be 6.25 lbs. of your "citrus food." Weigh the fertilizer to obtain 2 lbs. Apply one-third (about 2 lbs.) during Jan-Feb, Apr-May, and Aug-Sep.