



# Fertilizing Citrus Chart

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To promote optimum growth

## Cooperative Extension Maricopa County

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and production, use the attached chart to determine the appropriate amount of fertilizer to apply.

To Use This Fertilizer Table:

- ❶ On the left edge of the table, find a description of the tree you wish to fertilize. The total pounds of actual nitrogen recommended for this tree for one year is indicated in the shaded column directly to the right. Since no fertilizer is 100% nitrogen, use the chart to determine the amount of a specific type of fertilizer needed by your citrus tree.
- ❷ Look at the top edge of the table for the percent nitrogen which your fertilizer contains. Remember that every container of fertilizer has 3 numbers written on it. The first number indicates the % nitrogen, the second the % phosphorus, and the third the % potassium. (For example: 16-20-0 has 16% nitrogen, 20% phosphorus and no potassium.)
- ❸ The intersection of the row describing your tree (❶), and the column indicating % nitrogen of your fertilizer (❷), is a box with the number of pounds of that particular type of fertilizer product to use during the entire year for that tree.
- ❹ Give 1/3 of the yearly total of your fertilizer during January-February, 1/3 during April-May, and 1/3 during August-September. (This is due to environmental concerns regarding the leaching of nitrates into our groundwater.)

EXAMPLE 1: You have a young tree, planted 1 year ago and a bag of ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) which has 21% nitrogen. Find the row for a young tree. Find the column for 21% nitrogen. They meet at the number 1.25. So apply 1.25 lbs. ammonium sulfate during the year. Apply one-third (about 0.4 lbs) during January-February, one-third (about 0.4 lbs) in April-May, and one-third in August-September.

EXAMPLE 2: You have a mid-sized adult grapefruit tree, planted 5 years ago and you have a "citrus food" fertilizer with 10 % nitrogen. (10 is the first of the three numbers on the bag.)

The row for this tree and the column for 10% nitrogen join at the number 12.5. Mature grapefruit trees require only half of the amounts listed in the table. Therefore, the year's total for this tree will be about 6.25 lbs. of your "citrus food." Weigh your fertilizer to determine how much will weigh 2 lbs. Apply one-third (about 2 lbs.) during January- February, one-third in April-May, and one-third in August-September.

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### At a Glance

- ▶ Select the row which most closely describes your tree.
- ▶ Select the column that matches the first number on your fertilizer product (the percent nitrogen of the fertilizer).
- ▶ Find the box where the row and column intersect.
- ▶ Apply 1/3 that amount in January-February, 1/3 in April-May and 1/3 in August-September.

## Annual Fertilizer Requirements for Citrus Trees

(Apply 1/3 in January-February, 1/3 in April-May, and 1/3 in August-September)

All Citrus Trees except Grapefruit (See note below)		Pounds of Actual Nitrogen Required For the Year	% Nitrogen In Fertilizer (First number written on fertilizer container)							
			5 (Blood Meal)	10	15	21 (Ammonium Sulfate)	25	33 (Ammonium Nitrate)	46 (Urea)*	
Number of years since planting	Newly Planted Tree You may apply <u>small</u> amounts of nitrogen after tree is established and new growth has emerged.	0-1 year after planting	None to 0.12 lb.	None to 2.5 lbs.	None to 1.25 lbs.	None to 0.75 lbs.	None to 0.5 lb.	None to 0.5 lb.	None to 0.4 lb.	None to 0.25 lb.
	Young Tree	1-2 years after planting	0.25 lb.	5.0 lbs.	2.5 lbs.	1.75 lbs.	1.33 lbs.	1.0 lb.	1.0 lb.	0.5 lb.
	Small Tree	2-3 years after planting	0.50 lb.	10.0 lbs.	5.0 lbs.	3.33 lbs.	2.33 lbs.	2.0 lbs.	1.5 lbs.	1.0 lbs.
	Mid-Sized Small Tree	3-4 years after planting	0.75 lb.	15.0 lbs.	7.5 lbs.	5.0 lbs.	3.5 lbs.	3.0 lbs.	2.5 lbs.	1.5 lbs.
	Small Adult or Adult Dwarf	4-5 years after planting	1.0 lb.	20.0 lbs.	10.0 lbs.	6.75 lbs.	4.75 lbs.	4.0 lbs.	3.0 lbs.	2.0 lbs.
	Mid - Sized Adult or Trimmed Grown Adult	5-6 years after planting	1.25 lbs.	25.0 lbs.	12.5 lbs.	8.33 lbs.	6.0 lbs.	5.0 lbs.	3.75 lbs.	2.75 lbs.
	Large Fully-Grown Adult, Untrimmed	More than 6 yrs. after planting	1.5 lbs.	30.0 lbs.	15.0 lbs.	10.0 lbs.	7.25 lbs.	6.0 lbs.	4.5 lbs.	3.33 lbs.

*Note: Grapefruit Trees 5 or more years after planting: use 1/2 of amounts shown.*

To convert from decimal to ounces, multiply the decimal portion of the number by 16. Example: for 3.25 lbs. fertilizer, multiply .25 x 16 = 4 ounces, giving 3 lbs. 4 ozs. Applying too large a dose could damage your plant. Measure accurately before applying, and always water fertilizers in well. Urea is especially concentrated.