

SOIL TEST INFORMATION SHEET NO. H-820

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Flowers - Perennial

1. Apply fertilizer in early spring at the rate of one pound of nitrogen per 1000 ft² of landscape bed area. Minimize the amount of fertilizer applied to foliage or brush/wash off immediately.
2. A complete (i.e. nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium fertilizer in plant-appropriate ratios such as 3-1-2) slow-release fertilizer is preferred over a balanced (8-8-8 or 13-13-13 fertilizer with N,P,K in even amounts), or a 34-0-0 (N only fertilizer).
3. An application of fertilizer after pruning or bed clean-up in summer or early fall months would be beneficial; however, avoid fertilizing in mid-late fall to prevent undesirable, early leafing of plants.
4. Maintain the proper soil pH for the annual flowers being grown. Recommended pH varies from 5.5 to 6.5. Modify soil pH by lowering with sulfur or aluminum sulfate or raising with dolomitic limestone. Note that pH changes may take several weeks to months to take effect.
5. Water-soluble liquid fertilizers can be applied with irrigation water to supplement a regular fertilization program; however, slow-release fertilizers should be used primarily, in order to provide lasting nutrition.
6. Contact your county agent for additional information and help in your fertilization program. The agent also receives a copy of this report for the parish office files.