

May



Porch.com Home Maintenance Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01 Pittsburgh, PA May Day	02	03
04	05 Cinco de Mayo	06	07	08	09	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

= Last Spring Frost (50% Probability)

Notes:

DIY Organic Fertilizer

Just like a winemaker spends time and energy creating the correct “culture” of the grapes, or the baker spends years perfecting the perfect yeast starter for breads, the best gardens have a unique culture and produce the most vibrant edibles, flowers, lawns and other foliage. Spending time to assess your current soil, and learning how to amend it, will help ensure that the plants you purchase become truly successful.

What organic fertilizer does for your garden

- Fertilizing your plants helps supplement the soil and creates a healthy environment for plant growth
- Organic fertilizer adds macronutrients (calcium, magnesium sulfur, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium)
- Organic fertilizer adds micronutrients (chlorine, boron, iron, copper, manganese, molybdenum, zinc)

What plants need to grow

- Nitrogen (which helps grow stems and leaves)
- Phosphorus (assists with rooting)
- Potassium (regulates water distribution among plant cells and helps with the plant’s mechanisms)
- The best balance is 3 parts nitrogen, 1 part phosphorus and 2 parts potassium
- Experts refer to this as an “NPK ratio of 3-1-2” and consider it to be the most balanced

Best ingredients for a DIY organic fertilizer

Many of these ingredients are far less expensive when purchased in bulk. If you don’t want to store such large amounts, see if any friends or neighbors would be willing to split the cost. Feed and seed stores will be a great resource for finding some of these ingredients, as they are commonly used in feeding livestock.

- **Seed meal:** organic seeds that are a byproduct of the vegetable oil production process. Provides nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Usually consists of sunflower seeds, flaxseeds, soybeans, etc. Choose organic whenever possible.
- **Kelp meal:** otherwise known as dried seaweed, supplies a complete range of trace minerals, growth regulators and other plant “vitamins.” High in potassium and contains 60 trace elements.

- **Bone meal, phosphate rock, guano:** provides additional phosphorus and trace elements
- **Lime:** a ground, natural rock containing calcium. There are three usual types of lime: agricultural lime (calcium carbonate), gypsum (calcium sulfate) and dolomite or dolomitic lime (contains calcium and magnesium carbonates). Not to be confused with any hot limes like quicklime or hydrated lime.

You’ll need...

- 1/3 part agricultural lime
- 1/3 part dolomitic lime
- 1/3 part gypsum
- 4 parts seed meal
- 1/2 to 1 part kelp meal
- 1 part bone meal, phosphate rock or high-phosphate guano
- 20-quart bucket
- A one-quart measuring device
- Protective eyewear and gloves

Directions

1. Combine first three ingredients in the bucket and mix together
2. Add the remaining ingredients
3. Mix thoroughly
4. Store in an airtight container in a dry, cool, dark location.

How to apply

1. Once a year, ideally in the spring, spread about 4-6 quarts of organic fertilizer for every 100 square feet of garden
2. Blend with a hoe or dig the fertilizer into the soil
3. To ensure a properly balanced nutrient level in your soil, test your soil’s nutrient levels every several years

Even with a consistent COF and compost addition, your soil may hold on to certain minerals and release others, creating an imbalanced state. Variations and amendments to this recipe may need to be made for your own particular soil structure and plant needs.

May



Porch.com

Home Maintenance Checklist



Interior

Stay on top of chores with these monthly tasks:

- ☐ Check and replace humidifier filters every 3 months (*schedule an HVAC professional*)
- ☐ Wipe down and dust surfaces (*find a house cleaner*)
- ☐ Check the batteries in your smoke alarm and other monitoring devices
- ☐ Thoroughly check showers and wet areas for mildew

May is the perfect month to:

- ☐ Switch out cool-weather bedding with warm-weather bedding (*hire a house cleaner*)
- ☐ Insulate and ventilate attic for the summer (*find an attic insulation specialist*)
- ☐ Test/service your AC system early (*schedule an air conditioning service person*)
- ☐ Check shutters for loose screws/parts, repair as necessary (*call a handyman*)
- ☐ Inspect window & door screens for damage, repair as needed (*hire a window or door contractor*)

If you have time, do this:

- ☐ Organize garage so your car can be parked safely inside when storms hit (*hire a professional organizer*)
- ☐ Check window seals and weatherstripping for water leaks
- ☐ Locate and repair cracks/faults along windows (*call a window repair person*)
- ☐ Clear any obstructions in attic fans & roof mounted turbine vents



Exterior

Stay on top of chores with these monthly tasks:

- ☐ Check roof and replace loose/missing/damaged shingles (*call a professional roofer*)
- ☐ Clean and treat roof and driveway of moss
- ☐ Check foundation for water accumulation or damage

May is the perfect month to:

- ☐ Consider installing awnings to shade your house (*find an awning specialist*)
- ☐ Uncover and clean outdoor furniture and patio (*hire a pressure washing company*)
- ☐ Clean and prep your grill
- ☐ Keep vines off of the house to prevent rot, insects & rooting (*schedule a landscaping company*)

If you have time, do this:

- ☐ Ensure that downspouts extend at least 3 feet away from foundation (*call a gutter specialist*)
- ☐ Inspect exterior paint for peeling, touch up as necessary (*find an exterior painter*)
- ☐ Examine and clean all weep holes (*hire an exterior professional*)



Landscaping

- ☐ Prune early spring-flowering trees & shrubs after flowers fade
- ☐ Weed regularly
- ☐ Mulch garden beds
- ☐ Fertilize lawns
- ☐ Loosen and mix in compost to ready garden soil

Use Porch's online maintenance guide to find specific tasks based on your area:

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐