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Some Random Landscape Thoughts

As promised, here is a simplified and re-simplified explanation of fertilizers and how to correctly use them.

Whenever you see a fertilizer product, it will have three numbers prominently listed on the package, usually on the front. These numbers are very important and tell a great deal about what this fertilizer will do.

Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium (N,P,K) are what the numbers refer to. They are always listed in this order. It is the percentage within that package of each component.

For example, a common type of all-purpose fertilizer is referred to as 10-10-10. This is a balanced blend of equal portions of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. If you purchased a 50-pound bag, five pounds (or 10%) would be Nitrogen, five pounds would be phosphorus, and five pounds would be potassium. The remaining 70% is simply filler, or inert ingredients, which are there mostly to help disperse the chemicals.

Each nutrient plays a specific role in overall plant health:

Nitrogen (N) promotes green, leafy growth.

Phosphorus (P) is important for strong roots and healthy fruit and seed formation.

Potassium (K) promotes vigorous growth, hardiness, heat tolerance, and disease resistance.

When shopping for fertilizers, be mindful of their intended use. Fertilizers that have equal numbers can generally be used as an all-purpose fertilizer. If you had only one product to work with, 10-10-10 would be my recommendation.

For promoting good fruit or flower production, look for a middle number that is higher than the first. Otherwise, your plants will be stimulated to put out lots of nice green foliage, likely at the expense of fruit or flower production.

To toughen up your plants or lawn for environmental stresses, then you'll want a fertilizer that promotes the last number, and middle number. A high first number in this case may not be appropriate, because you are not likely to be promoting new lush foliage when at the same time putting plants or turf to bed for the winter. Instead, your goal should be to promote cell structure and strong roots which continue to grow through winter.

Finally, whenever you apply fertilizers, don't assume that more is better. You can burn plants or grass by over fertilizing, and damage the surrounding soil as well. Instead, opt for the practice of less is better. If your soil is rich in organic matter, it should have all the nutrition plants need. That's my fertilization method of choice!

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5 Inspired Spring Gardening Ideas

Evoke Water in a Dry Garden

Create the illusion of watery abundance by using a mass of grasses in the garden. Grasses evoke the movement of water, especially on breezy days.



Simplify with Succulents

Create a spark of interest in potted plant by replacing thirsty flowers with succulents.



Wild and Layered Garden

To make a strong visual design impact, gather plants in drifts or consider matrix planting where individual plants are repeated to create the look of a stylized mix meadow.

Lighten up with White

White flowers add a crispness that works well with warm or cool hues, stands out at night and creates a calmness that encourages a relaxed mind.



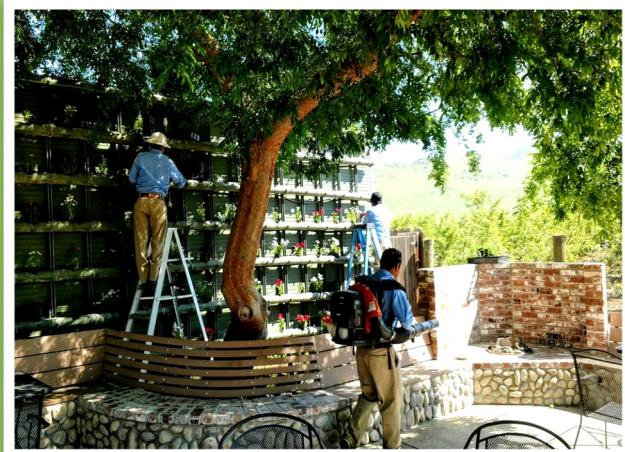
Pottery Fountain

No matter what location or climate dictates this spring, one thing you can do is introduce a water feature somewhere into the landscape.



Ways To Make Your Property Safer for Pedestrians

- **Keep walkways clear by properly pruning trees and shrubs.**
- **Make sure the area around your building has sufficient exterior lighting.**
- **Inspect for chipped pavers or bricks along walkways.**
- **Regularly mow and keep all grass areas in good conditions.**
- **Maintain irrigation systems and adjust properly to prevent pools of extra water.**
- **Make sure all in-ground irrigation boxes are covered.**



JDM Landscape Crew