



Potting Mix & Fertilizer Shopping List

Use this list to prepare or purchase your potting mix and fertilizer.

POTTING MIX

The first step in successfully growing Fast Plants® is preparing the appropriate planting medium. Note that Fast Plants® do not usually grow well in potting soil of soil from the garden.

EITHER PURCHASE A COMMERCIAL POTTING MIX:

- Jiffy Mix®
- Scotts Redi-earth®
- Carolina Biological Supply also provides a mix



OR MIX YOUR OWN:

- 1 part Peatlite™ to 1 part coarse or medium vermiculate

FERTILIZER

THE TWO TESTED OPTIONS FOR FERTILIZING YOUR FAST PLANTS® ARE:

- Solid pellets (Osmocote™) - add during planting
- Liquid fertilizer (Peters Professional™) - provide to plants on certain days in the life cycle or in water reservoir throughout the life cycle



These fertilizers contain supplemental nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) and are available from local gardening stores. Other fertilizers are potentially available to use with Fast Plants®. However, no standard protocols for dosage levels have been developed and may significantly alter the growth of your plants.

Osmocote: (NPK Pellets)

Osmocote, (NPK Pellets), is a time-released plant food that many professional growers use for flowers, vegetables, house plants, patio plants, and bedding plants. The nutrients are combined in small, compact pellets that are suited for mixing with the soil.

Nutrients released from Osmocote are affected by changes in soil temperature and moisture. Upon moistening, the pellets begin to dissolve. The release rate of each pellet increases as the soil warms, when plants are growing rapidly. The release rate decreases as the soil cools, when plant growth is less.

When used as recommended, there is virtually no risk of over-fertilizing or "burning" the plants from excess nutrients. The Osmocote pellets have an N-P-K (Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium) ratio of 14-14-14 or 20-20-20 with trace elements included. The advantage of Osmocote is that it eliminates the need to worry about fertilizing throughout the life cycle of the plant.

Osmocote must be added when filling the container with soil. They should be positioned at approximately half of the depth of your potting system. The number of pellets used depends on the volume of soil:

- 15 pellets spread at half the soil depth through the bottle growing system.
- 3 pellets in each cell of a quad in the Wisconsin Fast Plants® Kits.

Peters Professional™ Fertilizer

Peter's liquid fertilizer solution provides nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium plus some trace elements to plants. Make a stock solution of Peters™ by dissolving one level soda-bottle capful (7cc) of Peter's crystals into one liter of water. This stock solution is considered "full strength" and can be applied in two ways:

Soil application:

Apply 2 ml of the stock solution to the soil surface on Days 3, 7, 14, 21, and 28 for each plant that will be grown to maturity.

Water reservoir application:

Dilute the Peters stock solution by 1 part Peters to 7 parts water to reach a 1/8 strength nutrient solution. Keep the reservoir filled with this 1/8 strength solution throughout the life cycle.

For more information about growing and learning with Wisconsin Fast Plants visit the Fast Plants Program of UW-Madison at www.fastplants.org.