

Buyer's guide / Liquid fertilisers

GN TOP TIP
Never over-feed plants - there is a limit to how much can be used by the plant - you'll just be wasting it

Impulse buys!
Make sure there's a place for every garden centre purchase **Page 11**

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TOP TIP
NEVER USE GRANULAR FEEDS ON PLANTS IN POTS

High potash and tomato feeds



- Phostrogen All Purpose Plant Food**
NPK: 14:10:27 plus trace elements
Sizes: 400g, 800g, 1.6kg, 2.4kg. Makes 360 litres of feed per 800g
Price guide: £2.49, £3.99, £6.99, £9.99
- Maxicrop Plus Flower Fertiliser**
NPK: 5.1:4.9:6.9 plus seaweed extracts
Size: 500ml. Makes 150 litres of feed
Price guide: £4.79
- Chempak High Potash Feed - Formula 4**
NPK: 15:15:30 plus trace elements
Size: 800g. Makes 400-1,600 litres of feed, depending on use
Price guide: £6.99
- J Arthur Bower's Tub & Basket Plant Food**
NPK: 4:4:8 plus trace elements and seaweed extracts
Size: 1 litre. Makes 225 litres of feed
Price guide: £3.99



- Vitax Soluble High Potash Feed (Vitafeed 102)**
NPK: 18:0:36 plus trace elements
Size: 500g. Makes 300-900 litres of feed, depending on use
Price guide: £4.44
- Doff Tomato Feed**
NPK: 4:5:8 plus magnesium and seaweed extracts
Sizes: 500ml, 1 litre, 2-5 litres. Makes 465 litres of feed per litre
Price guide: £2.09, £3.99, £7.99

Ericaceous feeds

- Chempak Ericaceous Food**
NPK: 24:12:8 plus magnesium and trace elements
Size: 750g. Makes 375 litres of feed
Price guide: £6.99
- Doff Ericaceous Plant Feed**
NPK: 6:3:7 plus trace elements
Size: 1 litre. Makes 300 litres of feed
Price guide: £3.99
- J Arthur Bower's Ericaceous Plant Food**
NPK: 5:4:7 plus iron, trace elements and seaweed extracts
Size: 1 litre. Makes 225 litres of feed
Price guide: £3.99
- Miracle-Gro Azalea, Camellia & Rhododendron Soluble Plant Food**
NPK: 16:6:16 plus magnesium and trace elements
Sizes: 500g, 1kg. Makes 239 litres of feed per kg
Price guide: £3.56, £5.10
- Westland Rhododendron, Azalea & Camellia Plant Food**
NPK: 3:1.5:4.5 plus iron and magnesium
Size: 1 litre. Makes 120 litres of feed
Price guide: £4.99



Balanced feeds

- Chempak Fully Balanced Feed - Formula 3**
NPK: 20:20:20 plus trace elements
Size: 800g. Makes 400-1,600 litres of feed, depending on use
Price guide: £6.99
- Maxicrop Plus Complete Garden Feed**
NPK: 5:5:5 plus seaweed extracts
Size: 500ml, 1 litre, 10 litres. Makes 300-600 litres of feed per litre, depending on use
Price guide: £4.79, £7.79, £47.99
- Vitax Soluble Balanced Feed (Vitafeed 111)**
NPK: 19:19:19 plus trace elements
Size: 500g. Makes 300-900 litres of feed, depending on use
Price guide: £4.44
- Doff Liquid Growmore**
NPK: 7:7:7 plus trace elements
Size: 500ml, 1 litre. Makes 465 litres of feed per litre
Price guide: £2.09, £3.99
- J Arthur Bower's Multi-Purpose Plant Food**
NPK: 7:7:7 plus trace elements
Size: 1 litre. Makes 275 litres of feed
Price guide: £3.99



General-purpose feeds

- Miracle-Gro All Purpose Concentrated Liquid Plant Food**
NPK: 6:5:5 plus trace elements
Size: 1 litre. Makes 180 litres of feed
Price guide: £3.56
- Miracle-Gro All Purpose Soluble Plant Food**
NPK: 24:8:16 plus trace elements
Sizes: 500g, 1kg, 2kg, 4kg. Makes 360 litres of feed per kg
Price guide: £3.56, £5.10, £10.10, £15.31
- Phostrogen Super Concentrate Plant Food**
NPK: 5:2:5.2:6 plus trace elements
Size: 1 litre. Makes 150-450 litres of feed, depending on use
Price guide: £6.99



Just the tonic

Geoff Hodge checks out the array of liquid plant feeds available to help you find the right one for your needs

EVEN if you used a granular feed earlier in the year, many plants will benefit from liquid feed 'top ups' or tonic at this time of year. These fertilisers work instantly but they are also quickly used up, so if you are relying entirely on liquid feeds you will have to apply them regularly - probably every seven to 14 days, but always check the manufacturer's instructions. There are two main types - solids that you dissolve in water and concentrated liquids that you dilute with water. Some feeds are multi-purpose, often with a balanced mix of major nutrients, whereas others are high in potash to promote flowering and fruiting. To make things 'easier' for gardeners to choose, some suppliers give their feeds specific names - such as container & hanging basket feed. But all you need to concern yourself with is the NPK ratio (the ratio of the three major plant nutrients; nitrogen, phosphorous and potash) and whether they contain other nutrients. For instance,

tomato feeds are high in potash and can be used for other fruiting veg and flowering plants. Most plants will perform well if fed with a general-purpose or balanced fertiliser. But to flower profusely, flowering plants need a high-potash feed and some, particularly roses, ericaceous (lime haters) and tomato plants, are best fed with a fertiliser formulated just for them. **Nutrients** The major nutrients plants need are nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium or potash (K); plants need these three in relatively large amounts. Nitrogen promotes leaf growth, phosphorous promotes root growth and potash encourages flowering and fruiting. Other nutrients are needed in smaller amounts (such as iron), and some in tiny but crucial amounts, called trace elements. If the NPK ratio is the same (such as 7:7:7) then these are called balanced feeds, providing all three major nutrients in equal amounts, whereas high-potash feeds might have a ratio of 15:15:30.

Suppliers
Bayer Garden (including Phostrogen); tel: 0845 345 4100; www.bayergarden.co.uk
Chempak from Thompson & Morgan; tel: 08442 485383; www.thompson-morgan.com
Doff Portland; tel: 0115 983 4300; www.doff.co.uk
Maxicrop; tel: 08700 115117; www.maxicrop.co.uk
Scotts Miracle-Gro (Miracle-Gro and Levington); tel: 0845 190 1881; www.lovethegarden.com
Vitax; tel: 01530 510060; www.vitax.co.uk
Westland Horticulture; tel: 0870 063 3566; www.gardenhealth.com
William Sinclair (J Arthur Bower's and New Horizon); tel: 01522 537561; www.william-sinclair.co.uk



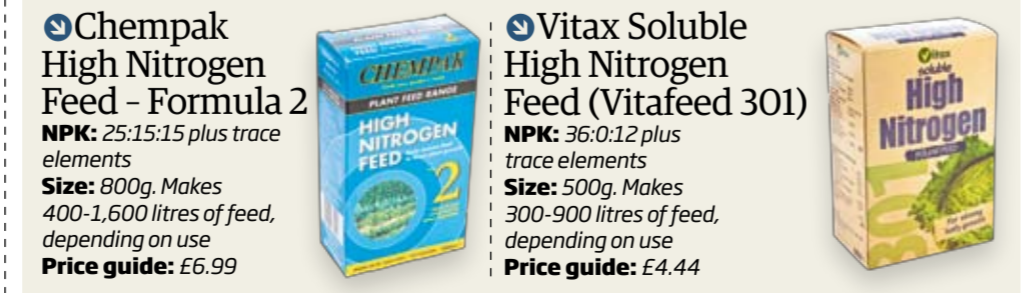
- Chempak Soluble Tomato Food**
NPK: 11:9:30 plus magnesium and trace elements
Size: 1.2kg. Makes 1,200 litres of feed
Price guide: £4.95
- Maxicrop Plus Tomato Fertiliser**
NPK 5.1:5.1:6.7 plus seaweed extracts
Sizes: 500ml, 1 litre, 2-5 litres, 10 litres. Makes 300 litres of feed per litre
Price guide: £4.79, £7.79, £13.49, £47.99
- Phostrogen Tomato Food**
NPK: 4:5:3:5:9 plus trace elements
Size: 1 litre. Makes 150-900 litres of feed, depending on use
Price guide: £3.99
- Vitax Liquid Tomato Feed**
NPK: 4:4:8
Size: 1 litre. Makes 270 litres of feed
Price guide: £4.50



- Levington Tomorite**
NPK: 4:3:8 plus trace elements and seaweed extracts
Size: 500ml, 1 litre, 2.5 litres. Makes 225 litres of feed per litre
Price guide: £3.05, £4.07, £10.20
- J Arthur Bower's Tomato Plant Food**
NPK: 4:4:8 plus magnesium, trace elements and seaweed extracts
Size: 1 litre. Makes 225 litres of feed
Price guide: £3.99

High nitrogen feeds

- Chempak High Nitrogen Feed - Formula 2**
NPK: 25:15:15 plus trace elements
Size: 800g. Makes 400-1,600 litres of feed, depending on use
Price guide: £6.99
- Vitax Soluble High Nitrogen Feed (Vitafeed 301)**
NPK: 36:0:12 plus trace elements
Size: 500g. Makes 300-900 litres of feed, depending on use
Price guide: £4.44



- Westland Nutri Tomato Plant Food**
NPK: 6:3:10 plus magnesium, iron and seaweed extracts
Size: 1 litre. Makes 225 litres of feed
Price guide: £3.99