

Name _____

Choosing the Right Fertilizer for Your Plants

Short Answer Key

1. Tomato plants benefit from a balanced N-P-K ratio (e.g., 10-10-10) because they need nutrients for both fruit development and healthy foliage. Phosphorus supports fruiting, while nitrogen and potassium promote leafy growth.
2. Organic fertilizers, such as compost and manure, improve soil structure and microbial activity, leading to healthier soil. They release nutrients gradually and enhance long-term soil fertility, reducing the risk of nutrient runoff and environmental harm.
3. Granular fertilizers are slow-release and provide nutrients gradually over time. They are typically applied to the soil surface. Liquid fertilizers are fast-acting and quickly absorbed by plants, making them suitable for immediate nutrient delivery. Liquid fertilizers are often applied directly to the plant's leaves.
4. To reduce environmental impact, gardeners can choose slow-release or organic fertilizers that release nutrients gradually, minimizing runoff into water sources. They should also follow recommended application rates and timing, avoid over-fertilization, and be cautious near water bodies to prevent pollution.

