

STRAWBERRY PLANT FEEDING: TIPS ON FERTILIZING STRAWBERRY PLANTS

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Strawberries are resilient and can grow in many different settings. Knowing when and how to fertilize strawberry plants will ensure a bountiful harvest and provide the biggest yields.

General rules of strawberry fertilizing

- Root top dressing is held when the soil is moist in order not to burn the roots.
- Foliar dressings (spraying bushes) should be held on a cloudy day or in the evening, thus you will not burn the leaves. Leaves with signs of disease should be removed.

Strawberry fertilizing in early spring

Nitrogen is one of the most important nutrients for strawberry plants, especially in spring time. There exist a few ways of preparing nitrogen dressing:

- A bottle of ammonia (40 ml) should be diluted in 10 liters of water, and then the solution can be used for watering the plants.

- Herbal infusion which is made from green fertilizer (1 liter of green per 10 liters of water) can be used for watering the berries. Fertilizing with herbal infusion helps strawberries to grow good peduncles - the berry will be larger and sweeter.

- A container is filled with a third of green mass (juicy grass), a bucket of soil, a bucket of fresh manure and water. Next after 4-8 days of fermentation the mixture can be used as a dressing.

A solution of ammonia is an effective remedy for pests. It protects from the larvae of the May beetle (chafer), which eat up the roots of the bushes, from weevil that eats the buds.

After the harvesting, strawberry plants must be fed with nitrogen one more time so that it develops in a proper way, gains a good mass and develops a strong root system. This time the concentration should be lower - 2-3 tbsp ammonia per 10 liters of water, or half a liter of green fertilizer per bucket. Dressings should be added when the soil is wet.

Strawberry fertilizing during the flowering period

When the strawberries begin to bloom, it is necessary to give the bushes potassium. As a result the fruit ovary and the taste of berries will be significantly improved. Farmers usually use mineral or organic fertilizers like potassium humate to do this. Potassium humate is sold in flower shops.

Also there are another ways to achieve this goal:

- Top dressing with ash: a three-liter jar of wood ash, (if it is with coals) per bucket; sifted (without charcoal) per 2 liters is mixed with water and stayed for a day: potassium salts and other nutrients are dissolved during this time. Before dressing it must be mixed properly and then diluted (one liter of solution per a bucket of water). This dressing should be added under the bushes.

- Treatment with boric acid. Boron contributes to the formation of ovaries and strengthens the flowers. In order to make this solution farmers take half a teaspoon (2 g) of boric acid per 10 liters of water. Next they spray strawberry with it.

- Honey water treatment. The best pollinators of strawberries are bees. To attract them, farmers mix 1 liter of water with 1 tbsp. of honey and spray the solution on the leaves and flowers. To conclude it should be stressed that these are just few ways of fertilizing the strawberry plants and every farmer should choose only those ones that are more optimal for his farm.

References

1. Grant A., Fertilizing Strawberry Plants: website. URL: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/fruits/strawberry/fertilizing-strawberry-plants.htm> (Last accessed 1.10.2019)

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