

Fertilizing Houseplants

Types of Fertilizers:

- **Liquid Fertilizers:** Easy to apply and quickly absorbed by plants. Ideal for a rapid nutrient boost.
- **Slow-Release Fertilizers:** Granules or spikes that gradually release nutrients over time, providing a steady supply.
- **Organic Fertilizers:** Made from natural materials like compost or manure, promoting healthy soil and plant growth without synthetic chemicals.

When and How to Fertilize:

Frequency:

- Typically every 4-6 weeks during the growing season (spring and summer). Reduce frequency in fall and winter when plant growth slows down.

Signs of Nutrient Deficiency:

- **Yellowing Leaves:** Often a sign of nitrogen deficiency.
- **Stunted Growth:** Indicates a lack of essential nutrients like phosphorus or potassium.
- **Poor Flowering:** May suggest a need for more potassium.

Tips:

- **Follow Package Instructions:** Over-fertilizing can damage plants and lead to nutrient burn. Always use the recommended amount.
- **Water Plants Before Fertilizing:** This helps prevent root burn and ensures even nutrient distribution.
- **Observe Plant Response:** Adjust the fertilization schedule based on the plant's health and growth patterns.