

Growing with Jack

...a monthly newsletter from Jack Peters

Dear Gardener:

Welcome to the Jack's Classic monthly newsletter. The purpose of my newsletter is to pass on timely tips on how to get the most from your plants using good plant nutrition.

Please send your topic suggestions, questions or comments via email to info@jrpeters.com.

Happy Planting!

Jack

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APRIL 2004

Things are beginning to look like Spring will finally arrive here in the Northeast in April. We had about one week of warm weather the end of March that made everyone anxious to get outside and start gardening! Read on for Spring planting and feeding tips. As always, remember to with your local garden center for specific information for your area.

PLANT SOME PANSIES

For early season color, plant some pansies. These cool weather lovers can be planted immediately. Choose plants that are stocky with dark green foliage and have few blooms but many buds. Pansies grow best in a location that receives morning sun and has rich, well-drained soil. Use them for color massing, edging, containers and window boxes. Remember, it is common for pansies to fade and decline with hot summer weather – simply replace with summer flowering annuals!

I recommend watering them in with the Jack's Blossom Booster 10-30-20 at 1 tablespoon per gallon rate, which has half the nitrogen in the nitrate form that is still effective in the cooler season low soil temperatures. The higher phosphorus in this formula will reduce transplant shock, making certain that the plants will not have to forage too far to get the phosphorus they need to establish themselves in the containers or beds.

FEED THOSE SPRING FLOWERING BULBS

Bulb crops are starting to peak out of the soil. Get your Jack's Blossom Booster 10-30-20 ready. Feed at the 1 tablespoon per gallon rate.

GREEN UP YOUR AZALEA AND RHODODENDRON

Rhodos and Azalea plants respond really well to fertilizer applications throughout the season. Please see my feeding schedule on our website at www.jacksclassic.com/azal_rhodo_care.html.

NEXT MONTH'S TIP: BUY SOME EPSOM SALTS

It is a good idea to keep some **Epsom Salts** on hand to supplement your feeding programs this spring and summer. **Epsom Salts** will supply additional Magnesium and Sulfur to your plants. Most waters do not supply an adequate amount of Magnesium to the plants and supplementing your fertilizer program will help keep leaves nice and green. Where can you buy some? Check your local grocery store – it is very inexpensive and safe to use. I will tell you more about how and where to use it next month's newsletter.