

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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Things are really moving now in the garden with the onset of the warmer temperatures. Your transplants should be responding to their new environment and producing new growth. The root systems are ready to take up all the nutrients they need to maximize their bud set and flower initiation.

Here is the feeding program I use for my tomato plants and some of the reasons I use it.

- After transplanting the tomatoes I want to get them off to a great start. In order to do that you need to provide plenty of phosphorus to the root system which has not yet spread out in the soil. I use the Jack's Classic® Blossom Booster 10-30-20 at 1 tablespoon per gallon when I set the plants in place.
- After the first week I come back and make my first application of Jack's Classic® 20-20-20. This 1-1-1 ratio fertilizer is just what the plant needs to grow in mass with plenty of new leaves and thick stems that will be the factories to produce lots of energy that will give you a high fruit yield. I repeat these feedings every 10 days to make certain there are no nutrient stresses to hold back production.
- Tomatoes respond well to increased levels of magnesium in the feed program. Be sure to add some additional Epsom salts (1 teaspoon per gallon) to your fertilizer applications. Your leaves will develop a deep green in response to the fertilizer applications and the increased magnesium.
- After the first month I switch my feeding program to a combination of 1 tablespoon of 20-20-20 and 1 tablespoon of 10-30-20 in 2 gallons. That combination makes a 15-25-20 fertilizer, which is a great formulation to feed as the plants are setting buds and fruit. Stick with this combination until all your fruit is set and the first of the fruit is starting to turn red
- From this point on I stick with the Blossom Booster 10-30-20. The high potassium will let the fruit finish nicely. Apply the fertilizers every 10 days or so right through the end of the crop.

I am certain that the hanging baskets that you have just brought home from the garden center look spectacular. The petunias, Calibrachoa, and Ivy geraniums all need a lot of feed to keep looking that way. Once a week feeding with “The Dynamic Duo” combination does a great job on all these heavy feeders.

Don't forget the trees and shrubs, which will all benefit from monthly feedings of the All Purpose 20-20-20. They put on bursts of growth that can double with properly timed fertilizer applications.

You Asked...

On the instructions for Blossom Booster it says it can be used with a hose end sprayer. What quantity of Booster do you put in the container? I think it is about a pint size.

Each sprayer has a different set of directions so it is difficult to give a one size fits all description.

For those sprayers that have an uptake tube and are labeled by number of gallons, like a 6 gallon sprayer or a 15 gallon sprayer, you put one tablespoon of fertilizer in the sprayer for each gallon specified. You then add water give it a little shake to dissolve and begin applying it.

For those sprayers without an uptake tube you simply fill the container about $\frac{3}{4}$'s full of the dry product. That is usually about 1-1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. The important thing to remember is that with this type of sprayer, the solution in the beginning is stronger than at the end so you want to apply it so that you get an even application over the desired area. Keep your sprayer constantly moving back in forth from one end of the garden to the other rather than starting at one end and ending at the other end.

p.s.: You can use any of our Jack's Classic® formulas in a hose end sprayer!

Which Jack's Classic® fertilizer is best for bouganvillas?

I like to use “The Dynamic Duo” -- All Purpose 20-20-20 and Blossom Booster 10-30-20. Bouganvilla feed heavily so I would give them a combination of 1 tablespoon All Purpose and 1 tablespoon of Blossom Booster mixed in a 2 gallon watering can. Water them thoroughly with this solution every week!

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