

# Planting and Feeding Annuals and Vegetables

A soil test is always advised before adding lime, gypsum, and other nutrients.

1. **Soil preparation** is the key to a successful garden. Soil that is too light or sandy can be improved by adding organic matter in the form of manure or compost. Heavy clay soils can also be improved by the addition of organic matter along with an application of gypsum.
2. **Apply fertilizer** at planting time and again in 5-7 weeks. We have many fertilizers and supplements from which to choose depending on your needs. We encourage the use of organic products that will build your soil for the future. Whatever you choose, please do feed your plants — it makes a difference.
3. **Loosen soil** to a depth of 8-12". Mix in the supplements and nutrients well.
4. **Plant annuals** and water thoroughly and carefully. It's best to plant on a day that is not windy or cold and when relatively good weather is forecast.
5. **Frequent watering** of newly planted gardens is necessary. Once the garden is established, gradually lengthen the intervals between very thorough waterings. Use mulch to help maintain consistent moisture and conserve water.

