

# Basics Of Fertilizing Your Tree



By Rob Wier

I recommend you fertilize your trees from late February to early March. This allows the fertilizer to breakdown and be available when the newly emerging leaves form later in March. Fertilizing will increase growth rate and the size of the tree along with keeping the tree healthy to ward off pest and diseases.

I've tried and experimented with various fertilizers for over twenty-five years. The good news is with today's organic based products it's easier to do, no more digging holes or pounding in stakes, just a surface application.

First, use a broadcast spreader and adjust to full opening. Apply **Gardenville 7-2-2** in a circle around the drip line and slightly farther out, three times. *[See fig.1]* The drip line is the ground under where the farthest tips of the branches reach and where the smaller feeder roots are.

For evergreen trees (pines, live oaks, magnolias, hollies, etc.) use **Texas Greensand**. Texas Greensand provides more iron which evergreen plants require to keep their green foliage through the winter months.

These two products feed slowly and improve the soil for the tree's roots. Being organic based, you don't need to worry about burning the roots and you'll see an abundance of earthworm activity (nature's own little aerators).

Finally, keep 'Weed and Feed' combinations containing broadleaf herbicides away from your tree's root system. Every year we have seen damage to trees from these products. Your trees are the most valuable part of your landscape. Protect your investment!!

