

FERTILIZER MATERIALS AND APPLICATION

This intermediate class will provide the participant with the fundamentals on fertilizers. The class will demonstrate the various fertilizers commonly used in the landscape industry, including fertilizers for turf, trees and shrubs, and specialty fertilizers. Included in the class is also a section on fertilizer application, including calibration rates and the different types of equipment used to apply fertilizer. This Fertilizer Materials and Application class is broken down into four main categories.

Section 1 - The Basics on Fertilizers

30 minutes

This first section of class explains what a fertilizer is and the need for fertilizer in the landscape. This section also introduces the participant to the Macronutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium), by explaining each of the elements and why each is needed. The conversion process of nitrogen, as well as nitrogen in the soil is explained thoroughly in this section.

Macronutrients: *Nitrogen* *Phosphorus* *Potassium*

Section 2 – Nutrient Deficiencies in Plants

1 hour

The second section of this fertilizer class goes into the most common nutrient deficiencies found in plants here in Southern California. This section talks about the Micronutrients that affect plant growth the most, including Iron, Zinc, and Manganese. The problem of chlorosis will be explained in this section. Various pictures will be displayed to show the effect of a micronutrient deficiency on plants.

Section 3 – Commercial Fertilizer

1.5 hours

Class participants will be exposed to the various commercial fertilizers available in the market. This section will cover the turf fertilizers, all purpose fertilizers, and specialty fertilizers. In addition to that, class participants will be able to determine the most beneficial fertilizer to use for a particular plant material at a certain time of the year. The class also includes a talk on starter fertilizers, Ironite, blooming fertilizers, and fertilizers which include herbicides or weed killers. This section will also cover soil remedy materials such as gypsum and soil sulfur.

Section 4 – Fertilizer Application

45 minutes

This section of the class will show participants the different methods of applying fertilizers using different types of fertilizer spreaders and equipment. The major types covered include:

Belly grinder spreader Large spreader Blower spreader

In addition to displaying various types of equipment, the class will also cover important safety information for fertilizer application, as well as spreader calibration information.