

## FERTILIZING FLOWERS

### Annual Flowers

If fertilizer was applied when the bed was prepared and planted, no additional fertilizer is needed for 6 to 8 weeks. If the plants are not vigorous and have yellowing leaves, fertilizer may be applied. In general, the more water applied to plants, the more need for fertilizer. Apply granular fertilizer 5-10-5, 12-12-12 or similar formula at a rate of about 1 pound of fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed. Or, use water-soluble fertilizer at the rate recommended on the package.

### Perennial Flowers

At time of planting or early spring, add fertilizer at the rate of 2 pounds of 5-10-5 or 12-12-12 per 100 square feet. Chrysanthemums and Delphiniums are heavy feeders and may need more fertilizer. Many perennials will react to over fertilization by growing artificially tall and spindly with reduced flowering and stems that fall over easily.

The **Master Gardener Hotline** is open from April to October, Monday through Friday. Lines are available 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at 888-678-3464

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/lawn\\_garden/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/lawn_garden/)

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/>