

## **Need fertilizer? Go slow!**

Most trees and shrubs get all the nutrients they need from the soil. But annual plants, vegetable gardens and lawns sometimes need additional nutrients from a fertilizer. When shopping for fertilizer, look for a product that contains "natural organic" or "slow-release" ingredients. Unlike "quick-release" fertilizers, natural organic or "slow-release" fertilizers feed your plants slowly and evenly.

The result? Healthier plants with strong root systems and no excessive "top growth"—saving you time and money. Moreover, using "slow-release" fertilizers can reduce nutrient run-off into ground and surface waters.

Improper use of fertilizers can damage beneficial soil life essential for healthy soils and plants. Excess chemicals can also find their way into ground water, streams and lakes where they can contaminate drinking water and harm fish and other wildlife. Read and follow product labels carefully before using fertilizer and other lawn chemicals and make sure you avoid application of these products to impervious surfaces to avoid run-off.