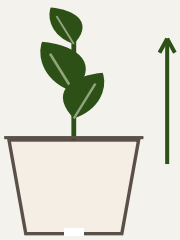
Feeding basics: support growth, not emergency rescue

Fertilizer supplies nutrients, but cannot replace suitable light, watering or healthy roots. Assess the plant before following the product label.

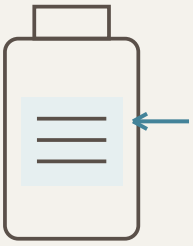
Applies to: For ordinary indoor plants in potting mix and fertilisers labelled for those plants. Hydroponics, edible crops and specialist plants need their own guidance.

01



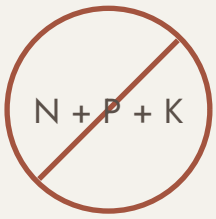
Check for healthy growth

02



Follow the product label

03



Do not use feed as first aid

Original teaching diagrams, not species photographs. Scale and moisture shading are illustrative.

01 Look for healthy active growth

Look for expanding leaves or extending shoots, alongside light and moisture suited to the species, before considering fertiliser. Yellowing, drooping or stalled growth does not automatically mean a nutrient shortage. Poor light, waterlogging and root problems can produce similar symptoms. Correct unsuitable conditions first rather than trying to force growth with more feed.

02 Check what is already present

For a recently purchased or repotted plant, check whether fertiliser or a slow-release product is already present and read its stated duration. Small granules on the surface do not identify their ingredients reliably. Hold off on an additional product until you know what is there, avoiding overlapping liquids, granules and feeding sticks.

Put it into practice

03 Choose one product and measure

Choose a product labelled for the plant and check whether dilution is required, how much to use and the application interval. Never pour concentrate directly onto the mix. Apply to already moist mix as directed. Measure accurately rather than guessing with a cap, and do not combine fertilisers. Resolve wilting or severely dried, shrinking potting mix before considering an application.

04 Record applications and reassess

Record the product, dilution and application date. Before another feed, review growth and moisture alongside the label instead of automatically increasing frequency. Pause during slow growth or dormancy and reassess when active growth resumes. If new scorched edges, wilting or white surface deposits appear after feeding, stop additions and keep the packaging for assessment.

Three things to remember

1	Confirm active growth and suitable conditions
2	Check existing feed and read the label
3	Measure the application and record the response

Pause and ask for help

Pause if the product, dose or existing feed is unclear. If concentrate or an excessive amount was applied, keep the product and dose details and contact Plantshop; do not add another fertiliser as a remedy.

Sources and use

Use this general lesson alongside the matching plant care guide. Substrate, pot system and conditions change what is appropriate. Sources checked: 30 October 2026.

1. University of Connecticut — Houseplant Fertilization
2. Iowa State University Extension — How to Care for Houseplants
3. University of Missouri Extension — Caring for Houseplants