

UNDERSTANDING FERTILIZERS AND THEIR RISKS

FERTILIZERS

Fertilizers from animal sources are often things like compost, manure, blood meal, and feather meal.



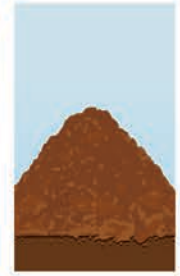
Organic Waste → Compost



Animal poop → Manure



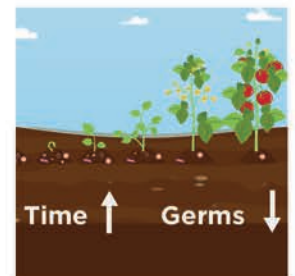
Animal blood → Blood meal



Feathers → Feather meal

GERMS IN FERTILIZER

Fertilizers can be processed to reduce germs, known as treated fertilizers. But untreated fertilizers can contain germs.



Time ↑ Germs ↓

You must apply untreated fertilizer to the soil at the proper time interval to reduce the number of germs over time and prevent their spread to soil or produce.

APPLICATION INTERVAL

The application interval for untreated fertilizers should depend on whether the edible parts of fruit and vegetable crops contact the soil.



Time ↑ Germs ↓



If edible parts **do not touch** the soil (like tomatoes, peas, peppers), apply fertilizers at least **90 days before harvest**.



Time ↑ Germs ↓



If edible parts **touch the soil** (like carrots, melons, onions), apply fertilizers at least **120 days before harvest**



RECORD KEEPING

Keeping fertilizer records is important to trace any contamination and improve the safety of fruits and vegetables. To keep good records:



Information about fertilizers to record:

- Type
- Source
- Storage location
- Rate of use
- Date of use
- Method of use

1

Record information on fertilizers



2

Verify the record by the farm manager



3

Maintain records for at least 2 years