

Ripple Effect # 54 - Fertilizing Your Yard the Natural Way

Did you know that natural fertilizers can help your flower or garden areas in ways where synthetic fertilizers fall short?

For instance, compost or humus adds rich organic material to soil and planting beds that synthetic fertilizers do not contain.

Another source of organic materials is well-rotted manure. Manure opens up the soil to air, and even helps retain water, where synthetic fertilizers only increase soil moisture needs in plants.

And don't forget the simple practice of mulching -- using bark chips, straw, leaves or grass clippings to cover your soil. Mulch helps retain soil moisture, and it keeps soil temperatures warm as well.

Of course, in order to protect our waters, it is important not to over-apply any fertilizer, synthetic or natural. All in all, however, natural fertilizers are a better bet for the environment and for your yard.

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.