

# How to Read a Fertilizer Label



## What the letters represent:

N = Nitrogen

Key nutrient in plant growth

P = Phosphorus

Important for root establishment

K = Potassium

Promotes vigorous growth and hardiness

## What the numbers represent:

Percent of each nutrient in the bag

A fertilizer with the numbers 24-8-16 contains

24% Nitrogen

8% Phosphorus

16% Potassium

The percent of each nutrient in the bag can be converted into pounds of nutrient in each bag. If the bag is a 50 pound bag, then there is

12 pounds of Nitrogen

4 pounds of Phosphorus

8 pounds of Potassium

Note that phosphorus is often referred to as phosphate and potassium is often referred to as potash.

