

Growing Guides - Fertiliser for edible crops:

RHS Allotment Handbook – is a good reference source priced at £17.00 look out for bargains for £10.00 or less

<https://www.thompson-morgan.com/how-to-garden> - A good online reference source which no doubt other seed merchants do similar. A very useful reference for the beginner.

Crop Nutrition:

Nitrogen [N] ; Phosphorus [P] ; Potassium [K] - Potash

The labels should always display the ratio and the appropriate application rate.

For Carrots & Parsnips: An NPK fertilizer with 1N-2P-2K label can be perfect, as are ones with 0N-10P-10K or 5N-15P-15K.

Beetroot: 5N-10P -10K

Brassicas: Cabbages, Sprouts, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Kale etc.
3N – 2P -2K **or** 3N- 3P – 3K

Beans and Peas: 5N – 10P – 10K **or** 8N -16P -16K

Tomatoes: 20N -20P – 20K **or** 5N – 10P – 10K

Cucumbers: 2N – 4P – 2K

Potatoes: 6N -3P- 8K

Soft Fruit: 4N -5P -4K **or** 5N – 10P –5K

These are optimum ratios and the ‘true’ need will vary according to soil type and soil condition. However as a guide these are the ratios you should look out for. Personally I tend to go for crop specific fertilisers and there are a number of suppliers who provide crop specific feeds. Using these you cannot go far wrong and if you store them cool and dry they will last for up to 3 seasons. Also you will find some fertiliser blends carry across to a wide cropping range.

For Strawberries and Raspberries I have successfully used seaweed based concentrated fertiliser diluted in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions.