

Fertilising trees using plant pills

Forests NSW Nurseries

Plant pills

Plant pills have been specially formulated for the requirements of native tree growers, foresters, nurseries and landscape gardeners.

They are high in nitrogen (23%) to counter low nitrogen levels in sandy soils.

Their low phosphorous content (5%) helps to establish well-developed root systems and meet the known low requirements of some native plants species.

The plant pills are high in potassium (10%) to encourage good flower development.

Some minor elements are also included (see analysis) to compensate for soil deficiencies of these trace elements.

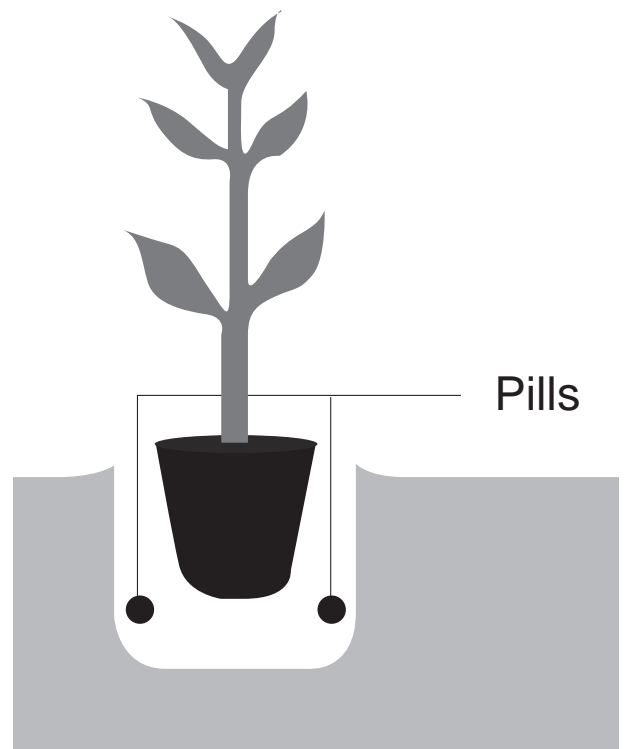
Planting out

After digging the planting hole and positioning the plant, return the backfill almost to the top of the root ball; place the required number of plant pills about 2-3 centimetres from the root tips. Complete the backfill; firm the soil at the base of the plant and water in well.

Pill requirements are as follows:

- 1 pill per tube stock seedling
- 1 pill per 140 mm pot
- 2 pills per 175 mm pot
- 2 pills per 200 mm pot

Figure 1: Planting out plant pills

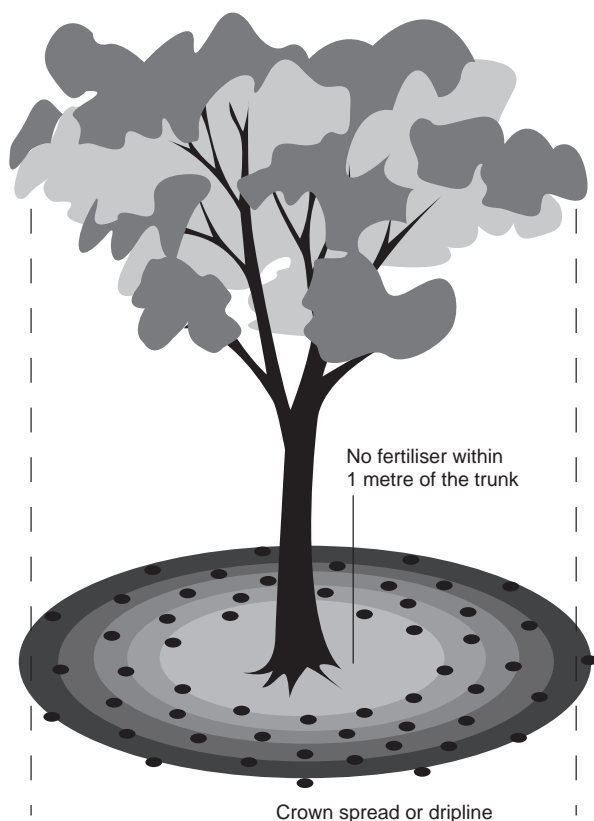


Established plants

Calculate the number of plant pills by allowing one pill for each four centimetres of the tree's trunk diameter.

Simply bury the pill or pills about 4-5 centimetres deep. Specs them about one metre apart, under the foliage of the tree (the dripline) and water in well.

Figure 2: Example of using plant pills for established plants



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Analysis

Each pills contains:

- 23% nitrogen
- 10% potassium
- 5% zinc
- 5% manganese
- 5% phosphate
- 4.6% sulphur
- 0.25% copper
- 0.04% molybdenum

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