**Pears - Home Garden** (*Code* #107)

	Potassium								
Soil Test Rating	Low K	Medium K	High K	Very High K					
	Coast: 0-70 lbs/A Pied: 0-120 lbs/A	Coast: 71-170 lbs/A Pied: 121-250 lbs/A	Coast: 171-275 lbs/A Pied: 251-400 lbs/A	Coast: 275+ lbs/A Pied: 400+ lbs/A					
Phosphorus	See Comments								
Low P	220	220	220	220					
Coast: 0-30 lbs/A Pied: 0-20 lbs/A									
Medium P  Coast: 31-60 lbs/A	220	220	220	220					
Pied: 21-40 lbs/A									
High P  Coast: 61-100 lbs/A	220	220	220	220					
Pied: 41-75 lbs/A									
Very High P  Coast: 100+ lbs/A Pied: 75+ lbs/A	220	220	220	220					

Coast = Coastal Plain Pied = Piedmont, Mountain, and Limestone Valley

## **Recommendations:**

Recommended pH:	6.0 to 6.5. If the pH is less than 6.0, see Lime Table B and the soil depth adjustment table that immediately follows the lime tables.							
Magnesium:	If soil test Mg level is low and lime is recommended, use dolomitic limestone.							
	Coastal Plain Low: 0 - 60 lbs/acre   Medium: 61 - 120 lbs/acre   High: >120 lbs/acre							
	Piedmont Low: 0 - 120 lbs/acre Medium: 121 - 240 lbs/acre High: >240 lbs/acre							

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## **Comments:**

220. To fertilize pear trees the year they are planted, broadcast over a two-foot circle 1/2 cup of 10-10-10 fertilizer about one month after planting. In June following planting, broadcast another 1/2 cup of 10-10-10 fertilizer around the tree.

Fertilization schedules in the first and subsequent years are summarized in the table below.

## **Fertilizer Application Rates for Pear Trees in Home Gardens**

	Standard (full size) Trees		Semi-dwarf Trees		Dwarf Trees	
Tree Age	cups 10-10-10 per tree	Area of application	cups 10-10-10 per tree	Area of application	cups 10-10-10 per tree	Area of application
Planting (Year 1)	½ cup 1 month after planting	2 ft. circle around tree	½ cup 1 month after planting	2 ft. circle around tree	½ cup 1 month after planting	2 ft. circle around tree
	½ cup in June	2 ft. circle	½ cup in June	2 ft. circle	½ cup in June	2 ft. circle
2	1 cup in early spring	3 ft. circle	1 cup in early spring	3 ft. circle	1 cup in early spring	3 ft. circle
	1 cup in June	3 ft. circle	1 cup in June	3 ft. circle	1 cup in June	3 ft. circle
3	2½ cups in spring	4 ft. circle	2½ cups in spring	4 ft. circle	1 cup in spring	4 ft. circle
4	3 cups in spring	5 ft. circle	3 cups in spring	5 ft. circle	1 cup in spring	4 ft. circle
5	3½ cups in spring	6 ft. circle	3½ cups in spring	6 ft. circle		5 ft airele
6	4 cups in spring	7 ft. circle			2 cups in	
7	4½ cups in spring	8 ft. circle	4 cups in spring 7 ft. circle		spring	5 ft. circle
*8+	5 cups in spring	9 ft. circle				

<sup>\*</sup>In year 8 and later, if soil test results indicate that both P and K are high or very high, substitute 34-0-0 at three cups for standard trees, two cups for semi-dwarf trees, and one cup for dwarf trees; or 46-0-0 at two cups for standard trees, 1½ cups for semi-dwarf trees, and 3/4 cup for dwarf trees.

Once the trees begin to bear, use shoot growth as a measure to determine if you need to reduce or supplement the fertilization rates previously suggested. Six inches of growth are ideal for bearing trees. If growth is more than this, reduce the rate of fertilization. If growth is less, apply a little extra fertilizer the next season.

**CAUTION**: When fertilizing, never dump large amounts in a small area. Root burn may result. Also, keep fertilizer six inches or more away from the trunk. Always broadcast the fertilizer evenly over the recommended area.

If in any given year you severely prune the tree, do not apply any fertilizer that year. Likewise, if growth is excessive, omit fertilizer for a year or two until growth is reduced to a desirable amount (terminal growth on bearing trees averaging 10 to 16 inches per year).

NOTE: A pint of 10-10-10 fertilizer weighs approximately 1 pound; 3/4 pint of limestone weighs approximately 1 pound.