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Slow- vs. Controlled-release Fertilizers

Today on Gardening in a Minute: slow- vs. controlled-release fertilizers.

You may have heard the terms “slow-release” or “controlled-release” used to describe fertilizers. But what do they really mean?

From a consumer’s standpoint, they’re almost interchangeable, since both products release nutrients gradually. The differences are in how the products are made.

Controlled-release fertilizers are inorganic fertilizers that have been modified, usually with a coating, to release nutrients over a specific period of time. They often look like colored ball bearings.

Slow-release fertilizers depend on other aspects of their formulation to release nutrients slowly, usually over a few weeks or a few months. They can be either synthetic or organic. An example of a synthetic slow-release fertilizer is sulfur-coated urea.

Whether you choose slow-release or controlled-release, you’ll make a Florida-Friendly choice!

For more information about fertilizers, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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