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Quick vs. Slow-release Fertilizers

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

We've all heard the fable about the tortoise and the hare. Even with fertilizers, there's a fast and a slow way of doing things!

Quick-release fertilizers are the "fast" way, since they make nutrients immediately available to the plant. They can be used to provide immediate results for plants with high nutrient needs, like vegetables.

However, if overapplied or applied just before a heavy rain, quick-release fertilizers may be more likely to leach downward through the soil.

For this reason, it's often better to choose the "slow" option. Slow- or controlled-release fertilizers make specific nutrients, usually nitrogen, available to the plants over time. And these fertilizers are less prone to nutrient leaching, so they help protect the environment.

For more information about fertilizers and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.