

sustainable education

**SUSTAINABLE FERTILISERS
ASSESSMENT**

MODULE 6

NATURAL FERTILISER AND PEST ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

- 1. Life cycles are interconnected...**
 - a. only in your garden and your community.*
 - b. and your actions will be felt way outside your garden.*
 - c. and being aware of nature will give you a perfect garden.*
 - d. and this leads to natural flows that you can control*

- 2. There are different fertilisers...**
 - a. for the garden and for plants in pots.*
 - b. organic ones that breakdown and inorganic ones which are manures.*
 - c. liquid ones and pelletised ones.*
 - d. organic and inorganic.*

- 3. Inorganic and organic fertilisers...**
 - a. are suitable to be used in the garden.*
 - b. can be recognised by how much manure is in them.*
 - c. can be used sustainably if you understand how they work.*
 - d. have been artificially made and were never alive.*

- 4. Organic fertilisers are varied...**
 - a. they are manures from all different animals.*
 - b. the best ones are from cow manure.*
 - c. any product that was alive such as manure and leaves.*
 - d. they are the plants you collect for 'Tea'.*

- 5. Green tea is a great fertiliser...**
 - a. for all plants that mainly grow leaves, nor flowers.*
 - b. as long as it's made and given to plants quickly.*
 - c. when it breaks down without water at first.*
 - d. that is made from your own recycled green waste.*

- 6. Store bought organic fertilisers...**
- a.** *are all just organic based and not totally organic.*
 - b.** *have confusing packaging not disclosing all ingredients.*
 - c.** *have laws and must be from ethical based companies.*
 - d.** *come from fish by-products like “Charlie Carp”.*
- 7. Inorganic fertilisers are...**
- a.** *only meet some of the needs that a plant has.*
 - b.** *the perfect product because it has been well used.*
 - c.** *great as made from by-products making them sustainable.*
 - d.** *better than your home made compost.*
- 8. Fertilising fruit trees and vegetable gardens...**
- a.** *can only be done well if you use both organic and inorganic.*
 - b.** *needs to be done inorganically to get proper fruit.*
 - c.** *should be done in restricted cases.*
 - d.** *can be done well organically.*
- 9. Fertiliser is only a bonus for plants...**
- a.** *as plants can get all they need from the soil.*
 - b.** *as firstly, compost and manures should be enough.*
 - c.** *but fertiliser is the answer to most soil problems.*
 - d.** *to keep the plant at optimum health.*
- 10. You would need to fertilise your plants...**
- a.** *most weeks to keep them healthy.*
 - b.** *when you have enough compost in the soil.*
 - c.** *after you have decided your organic additions are adequate.*
 - d.** *if you keep your soil at an optimum and therefore plant health at an optimum.*

- 11. Your expectations of your plants are...**
- a. the reason you may choose to fertilise a plant.*
 - b. quite high so therefore fertiliser is necessary.*
 - c. reasonable, so they won't need fertiliser.*
 - d. that fertiliser equals better producing fruit.*
- 12. Where you place a plant...**
- a. will affect the plant health.*
 - b. will affect leaf colour but reduce its need for fertiliser.*
 - c. is more important than soil choice.*
 - d. means you will generate a positive growth response.*
- 13. Soil can be "built up" so...**
- a. any plant will do very well.*
 - b. most plants can survive with additions of fertiliser.*
 - c. sandy soil can grow lush rainforest plants.*
 - d. most plants can do better.*
- 14. Pest damage to your plants...**
- a. will happen less if you site them correctly and mulch well.*
 - b. will lessen if you fertilise more.*
 - c. means you have your plants in the wrong spot.*
 - d. means you need to build up your soil more.*
- 15. Spraying unwanted bugs...**
- a. is necessary only in extreme times.*
 - b. is a problem as the sprays will kill the good bugs too.*
 - c. should be done with annoying bugs as they breed quickly.*
 - d. is ok if they are home-made organic sprays.*
- 16. When bugs attack your plants...**
- a. give them a quick prune to lessen the damage.*
 - b. fertilise them heavily to make up for the damage.*
 - c. give them an extra boost of worm tea or manure.*
 - d. means they will turn into plague proportions.*

- 17. Organic matter should be used in the soil...**
- a.** when you can see the soil through the mulch.
 - b.** when you start planting which will assist the plant growth.
 - c.** only sparingly as it can burn.
 - d.** all the time, it's great stuff.
- 18. Organic matter breaks down...**
- a.** releasing nutrients on a regular basis.
 - b.** Slowly, so you will need to add extra fertiliser.
 - c.** very quickly and should be used sparingly.
 - d.** and should be dug in well.
- 19. Organic matter or mulch is...**
- a.** the best thing to use as green manure.
 - b.** best if put on soil 300mm thick.
 - c.** only necessary in summer months.
 - d.** fantastic, use it all the time.
- 20. When should mulch be used on pots?**
- a.** never it should be forked through lightly.
 - b.** once the potting mix is six months old.
 - c.** once the mulch on there is broken down.
 - d.** all the time, like the garden.
- 21. The seasons affect fertilising...**
- a.** the more dormant the more fertiliser.
 - b.** autumn and spring will be the best time to fertilise.
 - c.** summer and winter plants use fertiliser most.
 - d.** very little if you are using slow release.
- 22. Slow release fertiliser...**
- a.** is best if used each season.
 - b.** is the safest way to use inorganic fertiliser.
 - c.** will burn the roots instead of them absorbing it.
 - d.** can be a waste if used organically.

- 23. The best way to manage your garden...**
- a.** *is to use inorganic mulch all the time.*
 - b.** *is by understanding how your soil behaves throughout the garden.*
 - c.** *is by learning about the different plants in your garden.*
 - d.** *is only to use organic fertilisers.*
- 24. Natural Fertilisers will benefit...**
- a.** *the soil, worms and microbes in the soil.*
 - b.** *mainly the sunny spots that grow vegetables.*
 - c.** *the roots mostly.*
 - d.** *your vegetable if you understand the seasons well.*
- 25. Growing a green manure crop...**
- a.** *will only help in winter.*
 - b.** *will benefit the soil more if you put straw on the soil too.*
 - c.** *will stop weeds and return nutrients to the soil.*
 - d.** *will help the beneficial insects.*
- 26. Understanding how water behaves in your soil...**
- a.** *helps you to know how much mulch to use.*
 - b.** *will stop wastage of fertiliser.*
 - c.** *will let you relax a bit more in winter.*
 - d.** *helps you decide how to water and what to grow.*
- 27. Rain patterns...**
- a.** *come in cycles so it is easy to predict them.*
 - b.** *are variable so it is difficult to predict them.*
 - c.** *come seasonally so water more in summer.*
 - d.** *are a part of seasonal and weather patterns and requires plenty of acknowledgement.*

28. Natural fertilisers can be made...

- a.** very quickly and easily.
- b.** in a liquid form with plants in a drum of water.
- c.** with a hessian sack in water.
- d.** only with manure to be beneficial.

29. Liquid fertilisers should be used...

- a.** diluted to the strength of weak tea.
- b.** only after it has brewed and settles for a couple of months.
- c.** on flowering vegetables, not leafy ones.
- d.** only on a full moon.

30. The best time to water is...

- a.** at sunset to give the plants a good drink at end of the day.
- b.** the middle of the day, but don't get water on the leaves.
- c.** the morning as there is time for the excess water to dry off to prevent fungal disease.
- d.** at sunset as plants are more receptive to food at the end of the day.