I don't need to add anything to my planting... do I?

So you have gotten all your plants, then taken them to your site and planted them. And just before you put down mulch, you think that you are all done with this site - but wait - what about the fertilizer to help those plants keep going after you leave or to even help them get established. Yes, that's right one of the most crucial steps has been forgotten.

First, let's get a little understanding of what a fertilizer does. Plants require three major nutrients: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K).

- Nitrogen fuels leaf and stem growth and is the nutrient that depletes fastest.
- Phosphorus stimulates root growth and seed formation and is prominent in fertilizers used in the fall.
- Potassium promotes flowering, fruiting, and disease resistance.

Two of the bigger sellers that we have here at CPC are Plant Tone and Bio-Tone Starter Plus. Both help stimulate the plant to take hold into that new planting bed you just installed or that large maple you just put in as a specimen out in the middle of your customer's yard. Both are very easy to use. When planting trees, mix some of the fertilizer in with the back fill and you steady that tree. When using with the smaller plants, your perennials and such, I have always liked to just side dress them with it.

One thing to always remember is when it comes to fertilizing perennials, "less is more" is the best rule of thumb since yes, you can over-fertilize them. A light hand is best with new plantings. Or you can do what a "wise man" once told me: just pop an evergreen cone in with it that is all it will take.

Well, that is all for now hopefully with your plantings this year you can give it a try and see how it helps your plantings get up and take root.

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