

The following ratios of nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium are approximate values for manure of different types.

Manure	% Nitrogen	% Nitrogen	% Potassium
Chicken	30	14	7
Cow	10	3	8
Hog	13	7	11
Horse	15	5	13

Chemical compounds are readily available, clean, odorless, and easier to dilute to a specified level. However, if used in excess, they destroy microorganisms critical to plant health, and they are more likely to result in excessive salt buildup. Delayed-release fertilizers should not be used with most orchids.