



What's wrong with chemical fertilizers? - after all nitrogen is nitrogen is nitrogen.

Well, yes, nitrogen is nitrogen is nitrogen, but plants shall not live on nitrogen alone. You can't live on just one nutrient; you need a variety of vitamins, minerals, fiber, protein, and calories. Plants are the same way. Synthetic fertilizers only provide key minerals. However, to be healthy plants need many major nutrients and trace elements to survive. Organic fertilizers provide many trace elements, major nutrients, as well as organic matter.

Organic fertilizers release nutrients more slowly, so the plant doesn't have a flush of growth when they are applied. Synthetic fertilizers often cause a spurt of unhealthy growth. This makes your plants more susceptible to disease and insects, which leads the synthetic farmer to more pesticides. By using organic fertilizers, you can break this cycle.

The organic matter helps hold the nutrients and water the plants need. It also provides food for soil organisms that recycle and hold nutrients. With all these good nutrients hanging around in the soil, your plant can grow at a steady, healthy pace. And because your organic soil is holding the nutrients, the nitrogen and phosphorus won't leach away and end up polluting our waterways. You can dump all the nitrogen you want on your soil, but if it can't hold the nitrogen, it will end up harming our waterways. There is a large dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, from synthetic fertilizers leaching off our farmer's fields in the Midwest.

The salts in synthetic fertilizers can harm soil organisms - especially worms. The fillers in synthetic fertilizers are not listed or regulated by the government. A company can put anything it wants to in those bags and you have no way of knowing what it is. Manufacturing synthetic fertilizers is not environmentally friendly. Synthetic fertilizers depend on non-renewable resources and use large amounts of energy to manufacture and transport. Organic fertilizers can also use energy to transport and mine, but many organic farmers use local resources that would otherwise be wasted.