

# NPK Nutritional Values of Animal Manures & Compost Etc

By John Harrison

Different fertilisers will provide different percentages of various nutrients so the quantity added will depend on the npk content of the type of manure or compost you use.

For example, if you want to add 10g of nitrogen per square metre you would need to add 83g of dried blood (12% nitrogen) or 50g of sulphate of ammonia (20% nitrogen) but if you wanted to supply that nitrogen from cow manure you would need 1,660g (1.6Kg) at its average 0.6% supply of nitrogen.

Of course, your cow manure will supply valuable humus that the fertilisers will not.

## NPK Values of Common Farmyard Manures - Cow, Horse, Pig, Chicken, Sheep & Rabbit

Let's take a look at the N-P-K values of the most common farmyard manures. These are pretty variable according to the diet the animals have had, how long it has been rotted for etc but it gives a reasonable idea.

NPK Values of Animal Manures			
	N Nitrogen %	P Phosphorus %	K Potassium (Potash) %
Cow Manure	0.6	0.4	0.5
Horse Manure	0.7	0.3	0.6
Pig Manure	0.8	0.7	0.5
Chicken Manure	1.1	0.8	0.5
Sheep Manure	0.7	0.3	0.9
Rabbit Manure	2.4	1.4	0.6

More information on [farmyard manures](#)

## NPK Value of Home Made Compost

Your own home made compost has NPK values quite similar to those of animal manure:

NPK Value of Home Made Compost			
	N Nitrogen %	P Phosphorus %	K Potassium (Potash) %
Average Home Made Compost	0.5	0.27	0.81

Having covered manures and compost, the next thing to look at is a fertiliser you make yourself, comfrey tea. Following the recipe of 6 Kg (14lbs) of wilted comfrey in 90 litres (20 gallons) of water in a barrel, produces a comfrey liquid feed with these values:

NPK Values of Comfrey Liquid Fertiliser			
	N Nitrogen %	P Phosphorus %	K Potassium (Potash) %
Comfrey Liquid	0.014	0.0059	0.0340

Although the percentage NPK values are relatively low in comparison with manures, being in liquid form, nutrients are immediately available to the plants.

More information on [growing comfrey and comfrey tea or liquid fertiliser](#)

In organic systems there is qualified acceptance of using 'natural' fertilisers to supplement nutrient levels achieved by composts and manures. These are

### NPK Levels in Natural Fertilisers

	N Nitrogen %	P Phosphorus %	K Potassium (Potash) %
Bloodmeal	12	0	0
Bonemeal	3.5	18	0
Hoof and Horn	12	0	0
Fish, Blood & Bone	6	6	6
Chicken Manure Pellets	4	2.5	2.3