

20 Minute  
Activity  
For  
Everyone

## Homemade Natural Fertilizer

Most plants require up to 17 essential nutrients to grow and blossom, but depending on the soil type or quality, these plants may be lacking the nutrients they need. Manufactured fertilizers help to increase plant growth, loaded with these essential nutrients along with high amounts of phosphorous, nitrogen, and potassium. Though manufactured fertilizers are used to help manage and increase plant growth in lawns, gardens and farming fields, they also have negative consequences on the natural environment. Here is an activity for you and your family to make your own natural homemade fertilizer.



*NOTE: This activity may require the use of a blender or a knife, parental supervision may be needed.*

### Activity:

- To get you started, grab something you can mix all your ingredients in such as a large bowl or bucket.
- Next, gather all the natural materials you need to make your natural fertilizer. *See materials list below.* *No need to measure the amount of each natural material. Aim to add equal amounts of each natural material so the ratios are even. The amount of each natural material you add should correlate with the amount of fertilizer you are wanting to make overall.*
- Add your desired portion of each material into your bucket or large bowl. Add a bit of water at the end to moisten the mixture.
- Mix all the ingredients together and now you have natural homemade fertilizer to use.

### Materials Needed:

Egg Shells, kitchen scraps such as fruit and vegetable ends, peels and waste, charcoal, grass clippings, bone meal, bucket or large bowl and water

### Reflection Questions:

- How did this activity make you feel? Did anything surprise you or stand out?
- Why do you think people spend so much money on fertilizer when we can make it ourselves?
- How do you think homemade fertilizer helps environmental health and sustainability?

### Natural Fertilizer Tips:

- When working with eggshells and bones, it is important to grind them up as this will prevent the attraction of animals. Dry out eggshells and cooked bones, use a kitchen hammer to break them up into smaller pieces then use a blender to turn them into a powder.
- When using homemade natural fertilizer for lawns, soak the finished fertilizer in water and leave for a few days. Strain and collect the water from your fertilizer bucket and spread it across your lawn.