

## The Numbers on the Bag

*From Chapter 2, Soils and Water, page 29*

It's time to fertilize,  
you've got to realize  
that plants need nutrients, too.  
You want plants so strong,  
it won't be long  
before they'll be needing you.

Add nutrients to the soil,  
like manure or fertilizer.  
You'll learn plants grow better in the rich soil,  
now you're a little bit wiser.  
When you use fertilizer  
you'll have to figure out  
what those three numbers printed on the bag  
are all about....

Those three numbers side by side  
tell you what's in the bag.  
Each number means a certain amount  
of nutrients to be had.

Nitrogen is the first number,  
a nutrient that plants need.  
It helps leaves grow strong  
and grass grow long and makes plants stay green.

Phosphorus is for all of us,  
the second number on the sack.  
It helps plants bloom flowers  
and make fruit for us to snack.

Potassium gives the plant some  
nutrients so roots can grow.  
It's the last number on the bag,  
something everyone should know.

Plants need these three nutrients,  
different plants need different amounts.  
The plants won't just stay alive—they will thrive  
and when you're gardening, that's what counts!