

Fertilizer and Farms

What happens to farms without fertilizer?

When plants grow, they take up minerals and nutrients from the soil. When we grow a lot of plants in the same area - especially 'heavy feeder' crops like corn, rice, tomatoes, and wheat - the plants tend to take up nutrients faster than they are naturally built up in the soil. In order to make enough food to feed people each year, modern farmers normally fertilize their fields with nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K), the minerals that plants take up the fastest. If these fertilizers aren't added, there aren't enough nutrients to go around and fewer plants are able to mature and produce food.

Harvest based on Fertilizer Use

