

STRAW BALE CONDITIONING SCHEDULE

Note: All volumes and quantities are per bale amounts.

DAY	TRADITIONAL FERTILIZER*	ORGANIC FERTILIZER**	WATER***
Day 1	½ c.	3 c.	Water to saturation
Day 2	Skip	skip	Water to saturation
Day 3	½ c.	3 c.	Water to wash in fertilizer
Day 4	Skip	skip	Water to saturation
Day 5	½ c.	3 c.	Water, warm temp is best
Day 6	Skip	skip	Water, warm temp is best
Day 7	¼ c.	1 ½ c.	Water, warm temp is best
Day 8	¼ c.	1 ½ c.	Water, warm temp is best
Day 9	¼ c.	1 ½ c.	Water, warm temp is best
Day 10	1 c. 10-10-10	3 c. with P and K****	Water to wash in fertilizer
Day 11	Plant	Wait 5 more days to plant	Water any new plantings

Source: Joel Karsten, *Straw Bale Gardens*

* Traditional Fertilizer (non-organic): nitrogen-rich lawn fertilizer (NPK: 29-0-4)

** Organic Fertilizer: any organic high-nitrogen source like blood meal and feather meal

*** Warm water (water in buckets set in sun to warm or rainwater) produces more efficient conditioning

**** Organic Fertilizer: Use bone meal or fish meal for the phosphorus and 50% potash.