

# Natural

Covers 4,000 sqft



40 lb.  
NC153

- All Natural Formula
- Contains Alfalfa
- Slow-Release Nitrogen
- No Bio-Solids or Manures
- Eleven Strains of Mycorrhizal Fungi

## Non-Burning Kid & Pet Friendly

### Why Add Mycorrhizal Fungi?

Mycorrhiza is the word used by scientists to describe the relationship between a fungi and the roots of a plant. In fact, the term mycorrhiza literally means fungus root. Our fertilizer contains 11 different strains. They are arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi that multiply and form a symbiotic relationship with the roots of the host plant. The benefits they provide to the host plants include increased nutrient uptake, drought tolerance and disease resistance.

**Alfalfa Meal** Who doesn't want to grow plants that serve two purposes? As it turns out, there are some plants you can grow that are as beneficial for your horses as they are for your garden. And, alfalfa happens to be one of them. Full of high-quality protein, alfalfa meal is a favorite food of equines. Even better, it also has plenty of advantages for your soil as well.

**History of Alfalfa Meal** - Alfalfa has been used around the world for thousands of years. Remains of 6,000-year-old alfalfa was found in Iran. The early Babylonians and Romans found it to be an essential way to feed their war horses. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was introduced to the United States as America's first introduced forage crop. It became popular with early agrarians like Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.

**What is Alfalfa Meal?** - The alfalfa plant is a perennial flowering legume that often grows over three feet tall. Resilient to droughts and other environmental extremes, alfalfa can live for ten years or more. Generally, it is grown as cattle and horse feed. Yet, the home benefits don't stop there. As a soil amendment, alfalfa meal is a dried, ground and fermented form of alfalfa. Even more so, it is one of the best plant-based organic fertilizers around for blooming plants. Alfalfa can also contain a lot of minerals due to having a taproot that goes many feet into the ground where they are more plentiful. Because alfalfa contains a plethora of various nutrients, it works wonders for replenishing degraded soils and speeding up the decomposition of compost piles. The high amounts of carbohydrates and protein that it contains are a first-class buffet for soil microbes. Thus, encouraging them to break down the soil nutrients quickly in order to make them accessible for plants.

**Benefits of Alfalfa Meal to Soil and Plants** - By adding nutrients back into the soil, alfalfa meal helps to restore soil fertility, thus helping plants grow faster and healthier. Below are some ways that alfalfa meal can transform the health of your soil and garden plants.

- **Good Source of Minerals:** Along with a high nitrogen content, alfalfa is filled with plenty of other beneficial garden minerals, including iron, zinc, potassium, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus and others.
- **Growth Hormone:** Alfalfa contains triacontanol, a hormone which stimulates the growth of plant roots, enhances photosynthesis, and increases beneficial microbes which help to suppress many soil-borne diseases.
- **Builds Up the Soil:** The high nitrogen content in alfalfa makes it easy for surrounding organic material to decompose. This helps prevent compaction in the garden by improving soil structure and acting like a sponge to absorb excess moisture and help prevent erosion.
- **Helps Resist Drought:** Adding alfalfa meal to the soil increases its sponge-like tendencies. Therefore, making it easier for water to be absorbed and held in the soil, even during times of drought.
- **Encourages Growth:** Within alfalfa is a substance called triacontanol, a hormone that stimulates plants to grow better roots and increase photosynthesis, which leads to stronger, larger garden plants.
- **Controls Harmful Nematodes:** Some studies have shown that the use of alfalfa pellets in gardens can reduce the infestation of root-knot nematodes that attack tomato plants, thereby helping you get a bigger harvest.
- **Provides Food For Microorganisms:** Everything living in your soil loves alfalfa. This is because of its tasty nutrients, meaning an infusion of alfalfa will help beneficial microbes and earthworms to thrive.