

Sunflower

Sunflower fertilization

The **Sunflower** (*Helianthus annuus L.*) is a plant of Central South American, belonging to the *Asteraceae* family; today it is **widely cultivated** worldwide, ranking **second place**, after soy, among the **oil-producing plants**.

Despite being characterized by a high water consumption, in case of water shortage the sunflower is able to exploit the humidity of the deep layers of the soil thanks to the **considerable development of the root system**. It is a typical renewal plant **suitable for dry cultivation**. It adapts well to the soils of the Italian central regions, with a good water capacity and deeply worked, where the summer rainfall is irregular. In the southern regions, which are too arid, sunflowers can only be grown with the aid of irrigation. It tolerates both low and high temperatures.

As far as the soil is concerned, those that are too loose unable to retain water, and those that are too heavy, especially if poorly prepared and without structure, should be avoided.

The sunflower is a typically summer crop that generally follows an autumn-winter cereal in rotation, therefore it almost always finds soils that are poor or very poor in nutrients, especially limited quantities of nitrogen. The best yield, therefore, is guaranteed by organo-mineral fertilizers with slow release nutrients, rich in humified organic substance that protects them from the risk of losses due to insolubilization, leaching and volatilization.

The sunflower is often fertilized in the same way as cereals with exclusive contributions of nitrogen and phosphorus while the crop can also have considerable needs for potassium.



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Pre-sowing fertilization

For pre-sowing fertilization, the most suitable and complete fertilizer is **CHALLENGE**, an organo-mineral fertilizer **NPK (Mg) 5-12-12 (2) with Zn**, to be distributed with the latest processing for the right amount of phosphorus and potassium, especially in soils that are poorly endowed with it.

Coverage fertilization

MAXI FERTIL NP (S) 20-10 (10) and **SUPER AZOTEK N32 S (7)** represent the best proposal for covering fertilization.

MAXI FERTIL is an organo-mineral NP fertilizer with **sulfur** characterized by the presence of **four different forms of nitrogen** that can be applied during the development phase of the crop, possibly following the fertilization by a light weeding. Its **phosphorus** content promotes excellent flowering.

SUPER AZOTEK N32 is an organo-mineral nitrogen fertilizer with **sulfur** to be applied early, in the development phase of the first true leaves.

The presence of humified organic substance and **different nitrogenous forms** in these formulations allows a gradual and prolonged release of nitrogen which allows the crop to be kept in an optimal nutritional state throughout the vegetative cycle. The **sulfur** content completes the nutritional profile and significantly increases the overall efficiency of fertilization. In fact, sulfur optimizes plant metabolism and allows a better use of nitrogen by the plant, with positive implications on its production capacity.



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