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Types of deficiencies

? The primary deficiency: is explained by the deficiency of one or more nutrients in the soil.

? Induced deficiency: the nutrient in question is present in the soil , but plant uptake is prevented, often by a blockage caused by a pH unfavorable, or, more rarely, as a result of an imbalance between mineral elements or organic. For example, too much intake of phosphate fertilizers can cause a blockage of zinc .

The deficiency may also be due to excess fertilizer, which can lead to disruption of the physiological mechanisms of the plant.

Symptoms of a deficiency disease

? Abnormalities in the color of the leaves .

? The necrosis of some tissues, leaves, bud , stem, bark, etc..

? A slowdown in growth.

? A decrease in crop yield.

Treatments

? Deficiencies in major elements (nitrogen , phosphorus , potassium , magnesium) are not common in temperate regions. Disorders may occur when there is strong growth in the spring ("nitrogen hunger" in cereals that have a distinct yellow tint). A fertilizer can remedy the deficiency. In contrast, tropical soils, often poor, have marked deficiencies in major elements (except in young volcanic soils or soils of peat).

? Deficiencies (primary or induced) in trace elements are more frequent. Be remedied by the subscriber on the floor or foliar sprays, once the element responsible has been identified. In most cases, the cause of the deficiency is not a single element. The direct field observation provides at least as many answers (and questions) as the analysis .

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? In soil, the treatment of induced deficiencies sometimes requires a change in pH by the addition of limestone (typical case in the deficiency of Mo). Also be treated with contributions from trace elements in organic form (natural or synthetic), less likely that the minerals equivalent to a block in the land. They are often used for this agents "chelating" which react with trace elements forming chelates (of iron , of copper , of boron to zinc , etc.). These chelates are quite stable in soil and its evolution into an insoluble form (and therefore assimilated by the roots) is more or less slowly, depending on the starting chelating agent, the pH of the soil, light, etc..

This technique has its limitations and the manganese , for example, there is, at present, no " chelate "stable in alkaline soils. Therefore, you may need to foliar subscribers.

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? Foliar, corrective contributions may be made by spraying a solution of salt soluble (chlorides , sulfates , nitrates) or chelate (DTPA , HEDTA , EDTA , etc.). of or necessary items. The amounts will be less than in the soil and various treatments are required in most cases. Treatments should be done at a time when the leaves remain wet long enough to improve penetration. Any corrections made in the first manifestations of the shortcomings are more effective because they are better assimilated, and can, in most cases bring the crops to maturity.

? Other control

In some cases, such as chlorosis Iron because of a blockage of iron in calcareous soils, the best defense possible is to choose rootstocks resistant. This choice should be made after several tests on the plot to plant, well distributed, well made, and interpreted carefully.

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