

(Information Please cont'd.)

for all of us. Perhaps this is the time for everyone to become involved on a more personal basis.

The USGA Associates Program is a way to support this research as well as other programs benefitting golf. Membership is affordable to anyone, beginning at only \$25. The Associates are for everyone in golf, superintendents, agronomists, sales people and researchers as well as golfers. After all, our livelihood depends on the viability of golf as an industry. The alternative is akin to those good ole days of weed pickers in bib overalls or something equally depressing.

## Micronutrients

### A Critical Component in Plant Development

Why micronutrients? Because they are the key to triggering most growth activity in plants. Without micronutrients as a "sparkplug," the enzyme system in plants would simply be an inert mass of protein.

#### DISTRIBUTION

Once soil begins to support plant life, the top foot begins to accumulate micronutrients in a slow, steady manner. How does this occur? Accumulation is a result of a certain process:

First, plants grow and produce extensive root systems that extract both micro- and macronutrients from a depth of several feet, depending upon the kind of plant.

Second, extracted nutrients are routed to shoots and some are retained in the roots as storage.

Third, the growth cycle is completed and plant residues are returned to the soil (minus harvested portions).

#### RELATIVE CONCENTRATION IN PLANTS

Nutrient	Compared to Mo
Molybdenum	1
Copper	100
Zinc	300
Manganese	1,000
Iron	2,000
Boron	2,000
Chlorine	3,000
Sulfur	30,000
Phosphorus	60,000
Magnesium	80,000
Calcium	125,000
Potassium	250,000
Nitrogen	1,000,000
Oxygen	30,000,000
Carbon	40,000,000
Hydrogen	60,000,000

Fourth, crop residues are converted to inorganic salts from organic matter and ionization makes micronutrient cations subject to adsorption on the soil exchange complex where they are immobile. This is the reason that recently leveled fields may have micronutrient deficiencies.

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