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#### OCTOBER 1989

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by Roger Funk, Richard Rathgens, The Davey Company

### **Essential Elements**

Element	Percent of Plant Tissue**	Element	Percent of Plant Tissue**
Oxygen	45	Sulfur	0.1
Cargbon	45	Iron	0.01
Hydrogen	6	Chlorine	0.01
Nitrogen	1.5	Manganese	0.005
Potassium	1.0	Zine	0.002
Calcium	0.5	Boron	0.002
Phosphorus	0.2	Copper	0.0006
Magnesium	0.2	Molybdenum	0.00001

<sup>\*</sup> Adapted from: B.R. Stout, 1961. Proceedings of 9th Annual California Fertilizer Conference, pp 21-23.

### Forms Available to Green Plants

lements	Av	ailable forms	Elements	Av	ailable forms
. Macronutrients			2. Micronutrients		
Nitrogen	(N)	NO <sub>3</sub> —, NH <sub>4</sub> +, Urea (some)	Iron	(Fe)	Fe++, Fe+++
Phosphorus	(P)	HPO <sub>4</sub> ——, H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> —	Manganese	(Mn)	Mn++, Mn+++
Potassium	(K)	K+	Copper	(Cu)	Cu+, Cu++
Calcium	(Ca)	Ca++	Zinc	(ZN)	Zn++
Magnesium	(Mg)	Mg++	Boron	(B)	BO <sub>3</sub>
Sulfur	(S)	SO <sub>4</sub> ——, SO <sub>3</sub> —	Molybdenum Chlorine		MoO <sub>4</sub> ——

<sup>\*\*</sup> These percentages vary from different species and for the same species grown under different conditions.

#### Salt Indexes

Fertilizer	Formula	0/0 N	%P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	%K <sub>2</sub> O	Salt Index	Partial** Salt Index
Nitrogen sources						
Ammonium nitrate	NH <sub>4</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	35.0	1	_	104.7	2.99
Ammonium sulfate	(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	21.2	_	_	69.0	3.25
Sodium nitrate	NaNO <sub>3</sub>	16.5	_	_	100.0	6.06
Potassium nitrate	KNO <sub>3</sub>	13.8	_	1	73.6	5.34
Urea	H2NCONH2	46.6	_	_	75.4	1.62
Natural organic		5.0	_		3.5	0.70
Monoammonium phosphate	NH <sub>4</sub> H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	12.2	-	_	29.9	2.45
Diammonium phosphate	(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>	21.2	-	-	34.2	1.61
Phosphorus Sources						
Superphosphate	Ca(H <sub>2</sub> PO) <sub>2</sub> +CaSO <sub>4</sub>	_	20.0	_	7.8	0.39
Triple superphosphate	Ca(H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	_	48.0	_	10.0	0.21
Monoammonium phosphate	NH <sub>4</sub> H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	_	61.7	_	29.9	0.49
Diammonium phosphate	(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> HOP <sub>4</sub>	_	53.8	-	34.2	0.64
Monopotassium phosphate	KH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	-	52.2	-	8.4	0.16
Potassium Sources						
Potassium chloride	KC1	_	_	60.0	116.3	1.94
Potassium nitrate	KNO <sub>3</sub>	_		46.6	73.6	1.58
Potassium sulfate	K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	-	-	54.0	46.1	0.85
Monopotassium phosphate	KH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	_	-	34.6	8.4	0.24

<sup>\*</sup> Adapted from: Rader, Jr., L.F., L.M. White and C.W. Whittaker, 1943. The Salt Index—A Measure of the Effect of Fertilizers on the Concentration of the Soil Solution. Soil Science Volume 55, pp 201-218.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Calculated per unit of N, P2O5, or K2O.

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