AGGRAND®

Natural Organic Products
Lawn • Garden •. Agriculture

FOLIAR APPLICATIONS

While plants do take up nutrients through their roots, they can't always meet all of their nutrient demands that way. For example, if soil pH is higher (more alkaline) or lower (more acidic) than the optimum range needed for plant growth, then essential nutrients become unavailable.

Foliar feeding is a very efficient way of providing nutrients during periods of peak nutrient demands, in situations where the soil pH level is creating a nutrient deficiency, and in periods of environmental stress. A foliar supplement is the quickest way to correct nutrient deficiencies without sacrificing performance. Applying two or three foliar supplements reduces the fertilizer rate needed for preplant, plant, and transplant applications, thereby minimizing the potential of nutrient leaching.

With foliar applications growers adopt one of two application methods: a calendar based approach where feeding begins on a certain date and continues at set intervals throughout the growing season, or an approach based on the plant's developmental stages in which reaching a critical stage (i.e. bud formation, first bloom, fruit set, etc.) is the cue for application. When feeding foliarly, apply enough fertilizer solution to wet the foliage.

Effectiveness of foliar applications is increased by raising the fertilizer pH to around 6.0. After mixing the fertilizer with water, test the pH with litmus paper. If the pH is below 5.5 then add baking soda one-half tsp. at a time mix until a pH of 5.5 to 6.5 is reached per 1 gal. of fertilizer mix. If the pH is above 6.5 then add 1 tsp. of apple cider vinegar at a time until a solution pH of 5.5 to 6.5 is reached per/gal. of fertilizer solution. The addition of a surfactant (spreader-sticker) to the spray mix also increases the effectiveness of foliar applications. Use a biodegradable vegetable oil based surfactant. Add 1 tablespoon to each gallon of spray mix and keep well-agitated.