

POTASSIUM

19
K
39.098

Antagonism

High K levels can reduce the availability of:

- Boron
- Magnesium

Stimulation

Increased K levels can create a demand for more:

- Iron
- Manganese

Functions

- Aids in photosynthesis and the functioning of chlorophyll
- Formation and translocation of starches, sugars, and fats
- Protein formation
- Aids with enzyme actions
- Maintenance of cell internal pressure
- Reduces wilting and respiration by maintaining balance of salts and water in cells
- Improves crop quality
- Increases root growth and resistance to disease and drought
- Decreases lodging

Deficiency Symptoms

- Light green, yellow older leaves which develops into leaf scorch
- Stunted growth
- Lodging
- Reduced disease resistance
- Weakened stalks
- Misshapen seed and fruit

Factors Affecting Availability

- Continuously cropped soils with low levels of organic matter
- Soils without balanced fertilizer programs
- Light, sandy soils where K has been leached
- Periods of drought
- Heavily limed soil
- Prolonged periods of heavy rain in some soils (e.g. Red Ferrosol)
- Soils in which deficiencies of P and Mo have been corrected
- Soils formed from parent material low in K

Sensitive Crops

- Cereals, corn, canola, pulses, beans, peas, sunflowers, potatoes, tomatoes, broccoli, rhubarb, cucurbits, lettuce, apples, berries, citrus, grapes, nuts, passionfruit, stone fruit

Visual Guide

