



Aglime Quarterly

What's Happening



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Soil Nutrients Are The Building Blocks That Roots Are Searching For.

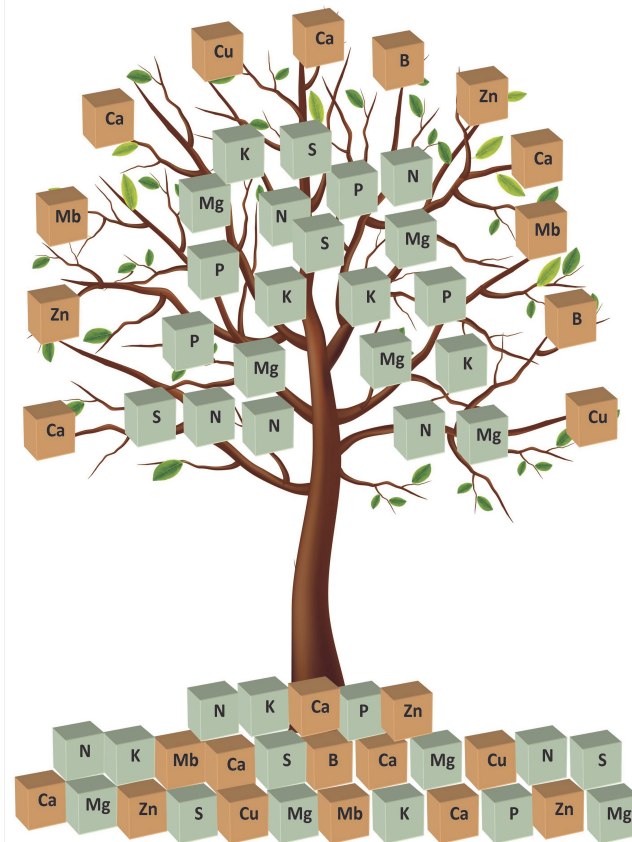
Many trees and plants grow because of an orderly division and expansion of cells at the growing points. Growth requires a continual supply of photosynthates and essential nutrients that are the building blocks of the cell. When deficiency occurs the growth of the plant and fruit suffers.

Macronutrients N, P, K, S and Mg can be supplied to the growing tips from the soil or remobilized from the nutrients stored in older leaves. Deficiency of these nutrients show up in the older leaves first.

Other essential elements, such as Ca, B, Fe, Zn, Cu and Mb come from the soil. These elements cannot be readily taken from older leaves. They must be replenished to the soil. This is why deficiency of these nutrients can be seen in the newest parts of the plant.

Roots get nutrients from the soil and transport them to the growing points of the plant based on demand. But roots also require their own nutrients for growth. Deficiencies greatly impact the health and development of the root system. The most important factors effecting root growth and nutrient acquisition is the chemical and physical characteristics of the soil: temperature, moisture, disease and compaction. These conditions can drastically limit the areas roots can take nutrients from.

A soil analysis can help determine if a nutrient is lacking or if a condition of the soil needs to be corrected to make those essential nutrients more available. Talk to your certified crop advisor and check your soil conditions and nutrient levels.



Reference: Almond Production Manual, University California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources 1996, pages 180-181
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