

Reuter, D.J., Robinson J.B. (ed.): **Plant Analysis: an Interpretation Manual**. 2nd Ed. - CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood 1997. ISBN 0 643 05938 5. 450 pp., USD 89.95.

This comprehensive Manual was written on behalf of the Australian Soil and Plant Analysis Council (ASPAC) as explained in Foreword by the ASPAC chairperson for the years 1995-1996, G.E. Rayment. At the beginning of the book, a list of 25 Contributors was included. The content of the book was divided into 10 chapters. The plant index at the end of the text contains a survey of species divided into two parts according to scientific and common names.

The 1st chapter deals with concepts and principles of the interpretation of plant analysis. It contains a short historical introduction and describes uptake, partitioning, and remobilization of nutrients. Furthermore, it gives basic information on the interpretation of critical nutrient concentrations and analyses crop nutrient status derived from nutrient concentrations. The 2nd chapter is devoted to symptoms of nutrient deficiency and toxicity. The main guidelines for collecting, handling, and analysing of plant material are summarised in chapter 3. Chapter 4 provides definitions of terms and abbreviations used in the Manual. The very content of this Manual is concentrated into chapters 5 to 10 which deal with the individual groups of plants as follows: temperate and tropical crops (chapter 5), pasture species (chapter 6), fruits, vines and nuts (chapter 7), vegetable crops (chapter 8), ornamentals (chapter 9), and forest plantations (chapter 10). In each of these 6 chapter, information from literature on nutrient concentrations were summarised in a very detailed manner. The following values of the assessment of the nutrient concentration are given (as far as they were found in the literature): Concentration range – deficient, marginal, critical, adequate, high, or critical from the point of its toxicity. Furthermore, growth stage and analysed plant part as well as country-site of the experiment, reference, and comments were included into the tables. At the end of each of the chapters 5 to 10, "Summarised Guidelines for Diagnosing Nutrient Deficiencies" of the most important species of the appropriate plant group were included.

This Manual summarises an immense amount of literature. For example, in the chapter 5, 1117 references are included. In most other chapters, dozens to hundreds of references may be found. No doubt, the book is a Manual of immeasurable value for everybody engaged in plant mineral nutrition both from the management and research point of view. It is also extremely suitable for everybody who looks for a reference on nutrient content in the appropriate plant species, on the given plant stage, or even at certain locations. The editors and all the contributors summarised a huge amount of information and offer it in a very suitable way to all potential readers. The majority of the readers of *Photosynthetica* will probably ignore this book because its relevance to photosynthesis is small. Nevertheless, it will be of precious use for all those who are interested in the effects of mineral nutrients on photosynthesis or those who need a qualified interpretation of their own results on nutrient content in plants and their organs.

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