



Greenhouse Pest Message, January 10, 2022

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Steps to Help Prevent Nutritional Issues on your Spring Crops

Here are some ideas on how to prevent nutritional disorders this coming spring:

1. Test Your Irrigation Water so you can fine tune your fertilizer program

As you know, alkalinity can be a major factor affecting pH changes in the growing media.

Water tests are recommended for every water source on your farm and should be done at least once and up to three times a year. A standard analysis usually includes: pH, EC, and alkalinity (which you can think of as the dissolved limestone in water) as well as macro and micronutrients (N, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cl, Cu, Fe, Mn, Mo, and Zn) and sodium (Na). Testing for macro and micronutrients should be done for each well **at least once a year.**

Sampling Procedure

1. Allow the water to run for 5 minutes to clear the line.
2. Rinse a clean plastic 16 oz. container 2 to 3 times with the water to be tested.
3. Fill the container completely and cap tightly.
4. Label bottle with your name, address, and type of analysis requested.
5. Mail the sample within 24 hours.

Here is a Partial List of Water Testing Laboratories (for greenhouse water samples used by some growers).

- **QAL (Quality Analytical Laboratories)** Panama City, FL., 850. 872.9595
<http://www.qal.net/>
- **JR Peters**, Allentown, PA., 866.522.5752
<https://www.jrpeters.com/lab-testing-services>
- **Ag Source Laboratories**, Lincoln, NE 1.877.HORT.LAB
<https://vas.com/water-testing/>
- **Waters Agricultural Laboratories**, Inc., Camilla, GA, info@watersag.com
<https://watersag.com/>
- **Sun Gro Horticulture** 1.800.732.8667
www.sungro.com/toolsservices/analytic-testing

For More: Interpreting Water Quality Analysis Reports by Dr. Rosa Raudales, in E-Gro Alerts: <http://www.e-gro.org/pdf/2021-10-11.pdf>

2. Calibrate Your Fertilizer Injector

Fertilizer-Injector Calibration University of New Hampshire Factsheet

https://extension.unh.edu/sites/default/files/migrated_unmanaged_files/Resource000882_Rep928.pdf

You Tube Video UNH <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fzobTdmkh8>

3. Plan on In House Testing of Your Growing Media

Helpful Online Resources

Fert, Dirt & Squirt website Has guides and videos, and crop specific nutritional monitoring fact sheets on popular seed and vegetatively propagated annual bedding plants, potted plants, and vegetable transplants on their nutrient needs. <http://www.fertdirtandsquirt.com/>

E-Gro Electronic Grower Resources Online

Sign up for their alerts, and review their online videos <http://www.e-gro.org/alerts.php>

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