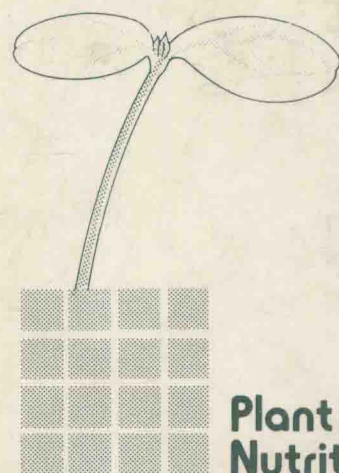


DEVELOPMENTS IN PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCES

Plant Nutrition

Physiology and Applications

M. L. VAN BEUSICHEM
editor



**Plant
Nutrition
XI International Colloquium**

KLUWER ACADEMIC PUBLISHERS

Plant Nutrition – Physiology and Applications

Proceedings of the Eleventh International Plant Nutrition Colloquium,
30 July – 4 August 1989, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Edited by

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KLUWER ACADEMIC PUBLISHERS

DORDRECHT / BOSTON / LONDON

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

ISBN 0-7923-0740-2

Published by Kluwer Academic Publishers,
P.O. Box 17, 3300 AA Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

Kluwer Academic Publishers incorporates
the publishing programmes of Martinus Nijhoff,
Dr W. Junk, D. Reidel, and MTP Press.

Sold and distributed in the U.S.A. and Canada
by Kluwer Academic Publishers,
101 Philip Drive, Norwell, MA 02061, U.S.A.

In all other countries, sold and distributed
by Kluwer Academic Publishers Group,
P.O. Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

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Printed in the Netherlands

PLANT NUTRITION – PHYSIOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS

Developments in Plant and Soil Sciences

VOLUME 41

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Assistance and financial support

Generous support and advice from the following Institutions is gratefully acknowledged.

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Preface

Exactly 35 years after the first Colloquium was held, the Eleventh International Plant Nutrition Colloquium took place from 30 July to 4 August 1989 in Wageningen, The Netherlands. Although impressive progress has been made during the past decades in our understanding of the mechanisms of uptake, distribution and assimilation of nutrients in relation to crop yield and quality, there are still significant gaps in our insight into many fundamental aspects of plant mineral nutrition and related metabolic processes. In spite of improved knowledge of nutrient requirements of crops and improved fertilizer application strategies, the world population remains to be burdened with an enormous shortage of plant products for food, timber, fuel, shelter, and other purposes. The main challenge facing the plant nutrition research community is to at least alleviate the increasing world-wide need for applying scientific knowledge to practical problems in agriculture, horticulture, and forestry. It is therefore felt by many scientists that the Plant Nutrition Colloquia, which are intended to bring together scientists and to integrate knowledge and approaches acquired in plant physiology, biochemistry, soil science, agronomy and related disciplines, have indeed made a significant contribution to the advancement of our knowledge and understanding in this vital and interdisciplinary field of agrobiolgy.

About 260 scientists from 40 nations attended the Colloquium in Wageningen. A wide spectrum of topics was presented, but almost all contributions were directly or indirectly focussed on the following themes, which at the same time clearly reflect the major areas of contemporary concern in plant nutrition research:

- nutrient acquisition by plant roots (phosphate, micronutrients, *etc.*);
- nutrient uptake, assimilation, and distribution processes in plants;
- plant responses to stress factors in the root environment (aluminium, acidity, salinity, *etc.*);
- fertilizer application in relation to yield and quality;
- nutrient management decisions (diagnostic systems, modelling, *etc.*).

In the Colloquium the above themes were covered by 195 abstracts, 162 of which were actually presented either as an oral or a poster contribution. The present Proceedings contain 136 refereed full papers, providing an excellent overview of the latest developments and actual problems in pure and applied plant nutrition research.

I wish to thank the contributors for the generally high standard of their presentations and for conscientious preparation of their manuscripts. The serious attempts to meet the editorial standards and to satisfy the wishes of the referees are highly appreciated. I am very grateful to the other members of the Organizing Committee for their generous participation and cooperation in all possible ways, from the planning of the scientific programme and the arrangements for non-conventional accomodation, to their indispensable help in editing the Proceedings.

The success of a scientific meeting heavily depends on maintaining a balance between scientific and social aspects. An elaborate programme can not be realized without a rather large group of more or less back-stage assistants with special tasks and responsibilities. It is no exaggeration to state that the excellent support of the Colloquium Assistants has resulted in a very smooth progress of the meeting and in a relaxed atmosphere throughout the week; they may thus be highly commended for their contribution to the overall success of the Colloquium.

The Twelfth International Plant Nutrition Colloquium will be held in Perth, Western Australia, and is tentatively scheduled for September 1993. The local organizer will be Prof. J.F. Loneragan, Murdoch University, School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Murdoch WA 6150, Australia.

Wageningen, April 1990

M.L. van Beusichem

Contents

Eleventh International Plant Nutrition Colloquium	xv
International Council on Plant Nutrition	xix
Preface	xxi
A: Uptake, assimilation, and distribution of macronutrients: Mechanisms and concepts	1
<i>R. Merckx, E. Smolders and K. Vlassak</i> , The soil to plant-transfer of nutrients: Combining plant and soil characteristics	3
* <i>E. Hoffland, H. S. Bloemhof, P. A. Leffelaar, G. R. Findenegg and J. A. Nelemans</i> , Simulation of nutrient uptake by a growing root system considering increasing root density and inter-root competition	9
* <i>R. G. Zhen and R. A. Leigh</i> , Nitrate accumulation by wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) in relation to growth and tissue N concentrations	17
<i>G. R. Findenegg</i> , Effect of varied shoot/root ratio on growth of maize (<i>Zea mays</i>) under nitrogen-limited conditions: Growth experiment and model calculations	21
<i>K. Thoms and B. Sattelmacher</i> , Influence of nitrate placement on morphology and physiology of maize (<i>Zea mays</i>) root systems	29
<i>J. Gerendás and B. Sattelmacher</i> , Influence of nitrogen form and concentration on growth and ionic balance of tomato (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>) and potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>)	33
<i>S. R. Troelstra, R. Wagenaar and W. Smant</i> , Growth responses of <i>Plantago</i> to ammonium nutrition with and without pH control: Comparison of plants precultivated on nitrate or ammonium	39
* <i>A. J. Gijsman</i> , Rhizosphere pH along different root zones of Douglas-fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>), as affected by source of nitrogen	45
<i>A. D. Peuke and R. Tischner</i> , Effects of variation in nitrogen nutrition on growth of poplar (<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>) clones	53

* Contributions indicated with an asterisk were first published in *Plant and Soil*, Volume 124 (1990).

G. A. Pieters and M. E. Van den Noort, Adaptation of growth rate of <i>Populus euramericana</i> to light and nitrate proceeds via the vascular system	61
P. H. B. De Visser and N. Van Breemen, Optimal nutrition in two forest stands exposed to acid atmospheric deposition	69
W. G. Braakhekke and D. A. Labe, Steady state nutrition by transpiration controlled nutrient supply	73
A. H. J. Freijisen, A. J. De Zwart and H. Otten, A culture system for steady state nutrition in optimum and suboptimum treatments	81
*B. Touraine, N. Grignon and C. Grignon, Interaction between nitrate assimilation in shoots and nitrate uptake by roots of soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>) plants: Role of carboxylate	87
G. Gebauer, Diurnal changes of nitrate content and nitrate reductase activity in different organs of <i>Atriplex hortensis</i> (C ₃ plant) and <i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> (C ₄ plant)	93
G. Gebauer and J. Stadler, Nitrate assimilation and nitrate content in different organs of ash trees (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	101
N. Petrović, R. Kastori and I. Rajčan, The effect of cadmium on nitrate reductase activity in sugar beet (<i>Beta vulgaris</i>)	107
G. R. Findenegg, W. Plaisier, M. A. Posthumus and W. Ch. Melger, Transport of glutamine into the xylem of sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>)	111
H. Kuppelwieser and U. Feller, Influence of fusicoccin and xylem wall adsorption on cation transport into maturing wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) ears	117
D. Schenk and U. Feller, Effect on phloem interruption on leaf senescence and nutrient redistribution in wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	121
P. Morandini, R. Vignola and P. Vittorioso, Efficiency of Azospirillum inocula in peat formulations: Maize (<i>Zea mays</i>) root colonization and effects on initial plant growth	127
I. N. Andreeva and S. F. Ismailov, Cellular organization of symbiotic nitrogen fixation and nitrogen assimilation in leguminous plants	133
*A. Jungk, C. J. Asher, D. G. Edwards and D. Meyer, Influence of phosphate status on phosphate uptake kinetics of maize (<i>Zea mays</i>) and soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>)	135
*S. A. Barber and Jen-Hshuan Chen, Using a mechanistic model to evaluate the effect of soil pH on phosphorus uptake	143
K. R. Végh, G. Y. Füleky and T. Varró, Phosphorus diffusion to barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) roots as influenced by moisture and phosphorus content of soils	147
*R. Baas, Effects of <i>Glomus fasciculatum</i> and isolated rhizosphere microorganisms on growth and phosphate uptake of <i>Plantago major</i> ssp. <i>pleiosperma</i>	153

*F. Amijee, D. P. Stribley and P. B. Tinker, Soluble carbohydrates in roots of leek (<i>Allium porrum</i>) plants in relation to phosphorus supply and VA mycorrhizas	161
*P. S. Raju, R. B. Clark, J. R. Ellis, R. R. Duncan and J. W. Maranville, Benefit and cost analysis and phosphorus efficiency of VA mycorrhizal fungi colonizations with sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>) genotypes grown at varied phosphorus levels	165
Y. Ohwaki and H. Hirata, Phosphorus absorption by chickpea (<i>Cicer arietinum</i>) as affected by VA mycorrhiza and carboxylic acids in root exudates	171
E. Hoffland, J. A. Nelemans and G. R. Findenegg, Origin of organic acids exuded by roots of phosphorus stressed rape (<i>Brassica napus</i>) plants	179
G. D. Batten and K. Slack, Grain development in wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) ears cultured in media with different concentrations of phosphorus and sucrose	185
A. L. Hart, Nodule activity and nodule phosphorus in white clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) in the presence of mineral nitrogen	189
N. I. Tikhaya, T. N. Stekhanova, M. D. Federovskaya and D. B. Vakhmistrov, Properties of ecto Ca-ATPase isolated from barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) roots	193
B: Micronutrients and toxic elements in plant and crop nutrition	195
G. A. Alloush and F. E. Sanders, Responses of chickpea (<i>Cicer arietinum</i>) to iron stress measured using a computer-controlled continuous-flow hydroponic system	197
G.W. Welkie, H. Hekmat-Shoar and G. W. Miller, Responses of pepper (<i>Capsium annum</i>) plants to iron deficiency: Solution pH and riboflavin	207
N. K. Fageria, Iron requirement of cereals and legumes in solution culture	213
M. A. Grusak, L. V. Kochian and R. M. Welch, A transport mutant of pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i>) for the study of iron absorption in higher plant roots	219
*J. Le Bot, M. J. Goss, M. J. G. P. R. Carvalho, M. L. Van Beusichem and E. A. Kirkby, The significance of the magnesium to manganese ratio in plant tissues for growth and alleviation of manganese toxicity in tomato (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>) and wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) plants	223
R. A. Youssef and M. Chino, Effects of rhizosphere processes on the solubilization of manganese as revealed with radioisotope techniques	229
A. J. Webb and B. Dell, Effect of manganese supply on development of wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) roots	235
*H. Marschner, H. Oberle, I. Cakmak and V. Römheld, Growth enhancement by silicon in cucumber (<i>Cucumis sativus</i>) plants depends on imbalance in phosphorus and zinc supply	241
F. S. MacNaedhe and G. A. Fleming, The effect of zinc and magnesium application on ear	

density, grain development and grain yield of winter and spring barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) crops on some Irish soils	251
C. Basso, A. Suzuki, F. W. W. Wilms and H. Stuker, Control of zinc deficiency in apple orchards in southern Brazil	257
*P. N. Sharma, C. Chatterjee, S. C. Agarwala and C. P. Sharma, Zinc deficiency and pollen fertility in maize (<i>Zea mays</i>)	261
M. M. El-Fouly, A. F. A. Fawzi, Z. M. Mombarak, E. A. Aly and F. E. Abdalla, Micronutrients foliar intake by different crop plants, as affected by accompanying urea	267
R. W. Bell, L. McLay, D. Plaskett, B. Dell and J. F. Loneragan, Internal boron requirements of green gram (<i>Vigna radiata</i>)	275
B. Rerkasem, R. W. Bell and J. F. Loneragan, Effects of seed and soil boron on early seedling growth of black and green gram (<i>Vigna mungo</i> and <i>V. radiata</i>)	281
A. M. Ramón, R. O. Carpena-Ruiz and A. Gárate, The effects of short-term deficiency of boron on potassium, calcium, and magnesium distribution in leaves and roots of tomato (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>) plants	287
R. O. Nable and J. G. Paull, Effect of excess grain boron concentrations on early seedling development and growth of several wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) genotypes with different susceptibilities to boron toxicity	291
W. Podlesak, T. Werner, M. Grün, R. Schlegel and E. Hülgenhof, Genetic differences in the copper efficiency of cereals	297
C. R. Blatt, Effect of arsenic and molybdenum on plant response of cauliflower (<i>Brassica oleracea</i>) grown in sand culture	303
B. Gunsé, Ch. Poschenrieder and J. Barceló, Correlation between extractable chromium, chromium uptake and productivity of beans (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>) grown on tannery sludge-amended soil	307
A. E. Boekhold and S. E. A. T. M. Van der Zee, Plant uptake of cadmium as affected by variation in sorption parameters	313
G. J. Taylor and K. J. Stadt, Interactive effects of cadmium, copper, manganese, nickel, and zinc on root growth of wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) in solution culture	317
S. E. A. T. M. Van der Zee, H. N. M. Ferdinandus, A. E. Boekhold and F. A. M. De Haan, Long-term effects of fertilization and diffuse deposition of heavy metals on soil and crop quality	323
C: Plant responses to acidity, salinity and other stress factors in the root environment	327
D. J. Brady, Ch. Hecht-Buchholz, C. J. Asher and D. G. Edwards, Effects of low activities of aluminium on soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>). I. Early growth and nodulation	329

Ch. Hecht-Buchholz, D. J. Brady, C. J. Asher and D. G. Edwards, Effects of low activities of aluminium on soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>). II. Root cell structure and root hair development	335
D. L. Allan, J. R. Shann and P. M. Bertsch, Role of root cell walls in iron deficiency of soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>) and aluminium toxicity of wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	345
*W. J. Horst, F. Klotz and P. Szulkiewicz, Mechanical impedance increases aluminium tolerance of soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>) roots	351
V. P. Coronel, S. Akita and S. Yoshida, Aluminium toxicity tolerance in rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>) seedlings	357
K. Hairiah, I. Stulen and P. J. C. Kuiper, Aluminium tolerance of the velvet beans <i>Mucuna pruriens</i> var. <i>utilis</i> and <i>Mucuna deeringiana</i> . I. Effects of aluminium on growth and mineral composition	365
*S. Suthipradit, D. G. Edwards and C. J. Asher, Effects of aluminium on tap-root elongation of soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>), cowpea (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>) and green gram (<i>Vigna radiata</i>) grown in the presence of organic acids	375
C. D. Foy, E. H. Lee, C. A. Coradetti and G. J. Taylor, Organic acids related to differential aluminium tolerance in wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) cultivars	381
R. B. Clark, C. I. Flores, L. M. Gourley and R. R. Duncan, Mineral element concentrations and grain yield of sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>) and pearl (<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>) grown on acid soil	391
K. Tan and W. G. Keltjens, Effects of aluminium on growth, nutrient uptake, proton efflux and phosphorus assimilation of aluminium-tolerant and -sensitive sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>) genotypes	397
W. G. Keltjens and E. Van Loenen, Similarities and differences between aluminium toxicity and phosphorus deficiency in sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>) plants	403
R. F. Korcak, Calcium protection against aluminium toxicity	409
Z. Rengel and D. L. Robinson, Temperature and magnesium effects on aluminium toxicity in annual ryegrass (<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>)	413
V. C. Baligar, R. J. Wright, K. D. Ritchey and N. K. Fageria, Bioassay technique to assess acid soil constraints for growth of wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) roots	419
R. R. Duncan and L. M. Shuman, Level of acid soil field stress for sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>) tolerance development: Comparison among locations	425
R. R. Duncan and R. E. Wilkinson, Sequential growth stage adjustment to acid soil stress in sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>)	429
J. F. Coutinho, Exchangeable aluminium and root growth of wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) as criteria of lime requirement in acid soils of northeast Portugal	435

* S. Schubert, E. Schubert and K. Mengel, Effect of low pH of the root medium on proton release, growth, and nutrient uptake of field beans (<i>Vicia faba</i>)	443
* J. W. M. Pijnenborg and T. A. Lie, Nitrogen fixation of lucerne (<i>Medicago sativa</i>) in an acid soil: The use of rhizotrons as a model system to simulate field conditions	449
T. Wagatsuma, T. Nakashima, K. Tawaraya, S. Watanabe, A. Kamio and A. Ueki, Role of plant aerenchyma in wet tolerance of and methane emission from plants	455
R. Ansari, Growth and chemical composition of barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>) cultivars on saline substrate as compared with a salt tolerant variety of wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	463
P. Adams and L. C. Ho, Effect of salinity on calcium transport in tomato (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>)	469
P. Adams, Effect of salinity on the distribution of calcium in tomato (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>) fruit and leaves	473
T. Marañón, J. M. Romero and J. M. Murillo, Sodium, chloride and potassium allocation in an annual sweetclover (<i>Melilotus segetalis</i>) from the Guadalquivir salt marsh in southwest Spain	477
C. A. Grant and L. D. Bailey, The effect of magnesium sulphate and calcium sulphate on yield and nutrient composition of flax (<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>) grown on chernozemic soils	481
S. D. Golombek and P. Lüdders, Gas exchange of <i>Fiscus carica</i> in response to salinity	487
E. W. Bachmann, Ionic balance and osmotic status in carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i>) cell suspensions grown under sodium chloride, osmotic and water stress	495
D: Fertilizer application in relation to yield formation and quality characteristics	501
P. J. A. G. Deenen, Response of grass swards to fertilizer nitrogen under cutting and grazing	503
* C. Sonneveld and W. Voogt, Response of tomatoes (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>) to an unequal distribution of nutrients in the root environment	509
M. Tattini, Effect of increasing nutrient concentration on growth and nitrogen uptake of container-grown peach and olive	515
C. De Kreij and Th. J. M. Van den Berg, Nutrient uptake, production and quality of <i>Rosa hybrida</i> in rockwool as affected by electrical conductivity of the nutrient solution	519
M. Van Noordwijk, Synchronisation of supply and demand is necessary to increase efficiency of nutrient use in soilless horticulture	525
P. Kasten and K. Sommer, Cultivation of cut flowers with ammonium as nitrogen source	533
C. M. Geraldson, Conceptual evaluation of intensive production systems for tomatoes	539

<i>I. G. Burns</i> , The effects of continuity of early nitrogen nutrition on growth and development of <i>Lactuca sativa</i>	545
<i>M. K. Schenk and A. Bettin</i> , Influence of nitrogen nutrition on powdery mildew (<i>Sphaerotheca fuliginea</i>) infection and metabolism of cucumber (<i>Cucumis sativus</i>)	551
* <i>J. P. Destain, E. François and J. Guiot</i> , Fertilizer nitrogen budgets of ^{15}N -labelled sugarbeet (<i>Beta vulgaris</i>) tops and $\text{Na}^{15}\text{NO}_3$ dressings split-applied to winter wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) in microplots on a loam soil	557
<i>R. González Ponce, M. L. Salas and A. Lamela</i> , Nitrate reductase activity, grain yield and grain protein in wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) as affected by nitrogen fertilization under semi-arid conditions	561
<i>R. González Ponce, A. Lamela and M. L. Salas</i> , Effects of nitrogen and herbicide on grain yield and protein content of a tall and a semi-dwarf wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) cultivar in semi-arid conditions	565
<i>A. Kullmann, V. B. Ogunlela and G. Geisler</i> , Seed characters in oilseed rape (<i>Brassica napus</i>) in relation to nitrogen nutrition	569
* <i>J. A. Chweya</i> , Effect of nitrogen on thiocyanate content of <i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>acephala</i> leaves	577
<i>A. Troncoso and M. Cantos</i> , Influence of nitrogen fertilization on sugarbeet (<i>Beta vulgaris</i>) quality in an area of southern Spain	581
<i>J. S. Bohra and K. Singh</i> , Effect of preceding crops and nitrogen application on safflower (<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>) yield and nutrient uptake, and on soil nitrogen	585
<i>E. Casanova and P. R. Solorzano</i> , Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium uptake of two sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>) cultivars in an acid soil of Venezuela	591
<i>S. P. Wani, M. A. Zambre and K. K. Lee</i> , Genotypic diversity in pearl millet (<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>) for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium use efficiencies	595
<i>H. Gömpel, A. Pomikalko, S. Beyer, B. Sattelmacher, M. Peters and H.-P. Blume</i> , Nitrogen and potassium dynamics, rooting intensity, and infection with VA mycorrhiza in a haplic podzol at intensive and organic farming	603
<i>V. Kovačević, V. Katušić and V. Vukadinović</i> , Nutritional stress of maize (<i>Zea mays</i>) growing on a gleysol of east Croatia	607
* <i>M. Jeganathan</i> , Studies on potassium-magnesium interaction in coconut (<i>Cocos nucifera</i>)	611
<i>J.T. Raese and D.C. Staiff</i> , Fruit calcium, quality and disorders of apples (<i>Malus domestica</i>) and pears (<i>Pyrus communis</i>) influenced by fertilizers	619
* <i>Ch. Rutz, U. Hugentobler, H. Chi, J.U. Baumgärtner and J.J. Oertli</i> , Energy flow in an apple plant-aphid (<i>Aphis pomi</i> De Geer) (Homoptera: Aphididae) ecosystem, with respect to nitrogen fertilization. I. Life table analyses	625

* M. Krumm, V. Moazami and P. Martin, Influence of potassium on concentrations of water soluble carbohydrates, potassium, calcium, and magnesium and the osmotic potential in sap extracted from wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) ears during preanthesis development	633
* H. Beringer, K. Koch and M. G. Lindhauer, Source: sink relationships in potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>) as influenced by potassium chloride or potassium sulphate nutrition	639
* M. G. Lindhauer and M. A. R. De Fekete, Starch synthesis in potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>) tubers: Activity of selected enzymes in dependence of potassium content in storage tissue	643
A. S. Claassens, The nutrient requirements of Ornithogalum and Lachenalia, two indigenous South African flowering bulbs	649
A. Troncoso, A. Villegas, C. Mazuelos and M. Cantos, Growth and mineral composition of grape-vine rootstock cultered <i>in vitro</i> with different levels of ammonium nitrate	653
A. D. MacKay, J. R. Caradus, A. L. Hart, G. S. Wewala, J. Dunlop, M. G. Lambert, J. Van den Bosch and M. C. H. Mouat, Phosphorus uptake characteristics of a world collection white clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) cultivars	655
J. S. Bohra, K. Singh and J. S. Jamwal, The effects of phosphorus and bio-fertilizers on physiological parameters, yield and quality of cowpea (<i>Vigna sinensis</i>)	659
N. Sanginga, F. Zapata, S. K. A. Danso and G. D. Bowen, Effect of successive cutting on nodulation and nitrogen fixation of <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> using ^{15}N dilution and the difference methods	667
K. O. Awonaike, K. S. Kumarasinghe and S. K. A. Danso, Inorganic N x <i>Bradyrhizobium</i> strain interaction on cowpea (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>) varietal performance in the field, using the ^{15}N isotope dilution technique	675
E: Methods and techniques aiming at optimization of crop nutrition and growth	683
J.J. R. Groot and H. Van Keulen, Prospects for improvement of nitrogen fertilizer recommendations for cereals: A simulation study	685
* D. J. Greenwood, D. A. Stone and A. Draycott, Weather, nitrogen-supply and growth rate of field vegetables	693
B. H. Janssen and F. C. T. Guiking, Modelling the response of crops to fertilizers	699
* P. Seward, P. B. Barraclough and P. J. Gregory, Modelling potassium uptake by wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) crops	705
* H. Kolbe, Wei-Li Zhang and L. Ballüer, Simulation of fertilizer influence on yield and quality of potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>) tubers by nonlinear optimization method	711
E. Szücs and T. Kállay, Determination of fruiting capacity of apple trees (<i>Malus domestica</i>) by DRIS	717