How to Recognize Nutrient Deficiency in Plants and Their Symptoms

Inorganic Element	Deficiency Symptom
Nitrogen (N)	Plants stunted, yellowing from bottom up and leaf tip back to petiole. Reduced size. Slow, stunted growth.
Phosphorous (P)	Plants stunted, shorter internodes, purple or dark green foliage; old leaves die back; flowers and fruit poor. Slow growth, delayed maturity.
Potassium (K)	Older leaves scorches on margin; weak stem; fruit shriveled, uneven ripening.
Boron (B)	Tip of growing plant dies; bud becomes light green; roots are brown in center; flowers do not form.
Calcium (Ca)	Young leaves turn yellow then brown; growing tip bends; short, dark roots.
Iron (Fe)	Young leaves are yellow between veins first, top to bottom; veins, margins, and tips stay green.
Magnesium (Mg)	Leaves are thin, lose green color from between veins from bottom of plant up; tend to curve upward.
Manganese (Mn)	Tissue between veins turns white; leaves have dead spots; plant is dwarfed.
Zinc (Zn)	Terminal leaves are small; bud formation is poor; leaves have dead areas.
	Information from 'The Vegetable Book, A Texan's guide to gardening' –Dr. Sam Cotner

Deficiency Chart of Micronutrients

Boron: Discoloration of leaf buds. Breaking and dropping of buds

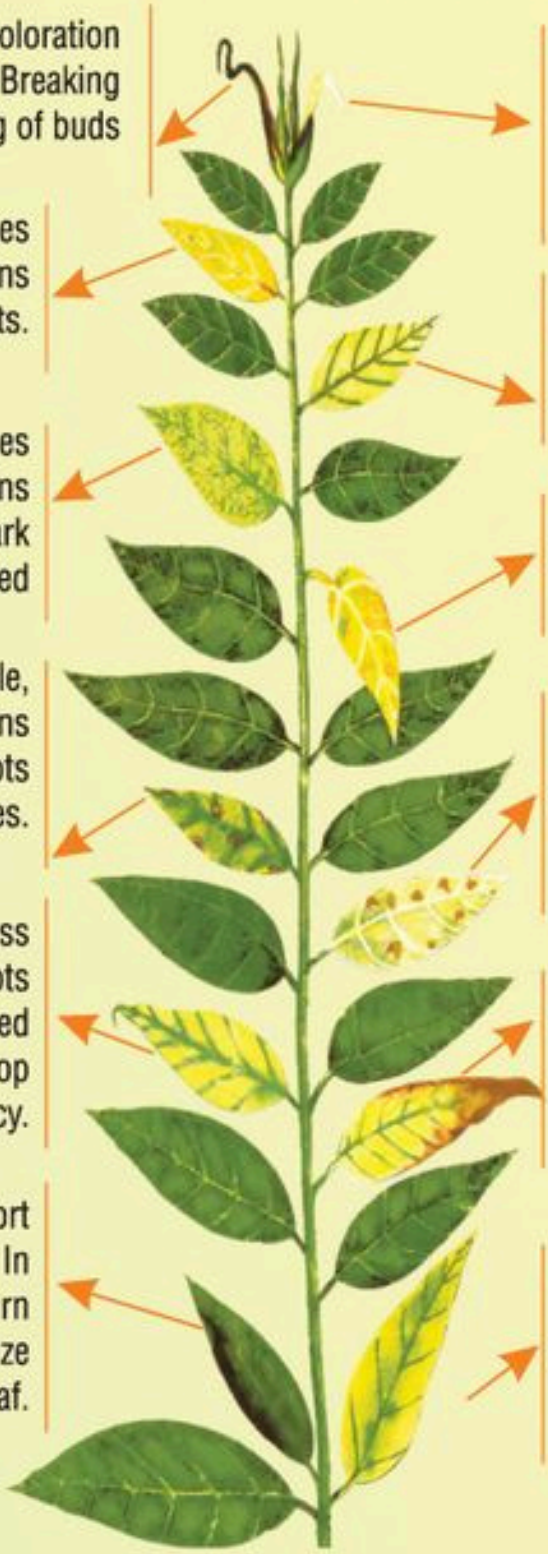
Sulphur: Leaves light green. Veins pale green. No spots.

Manganese: Leaves pale in color. Veins and venules dark green and reticulated

Zinc: Leaves pale, narrow and short Veins dark green. Dark spots on leaves and edges.

Magnesium: Paleness from leaf edges. No spots Edges have cup shaped folds. Leaves die and drop in extreme deficiency.

Phosphorus: Plant short and dark green. In extreme deficiencies turn brown or black. Bronze colour under the leaf.



Calcium: Plant dark green. Tender leaves pale. Drying starts from the tips. Eventually leaf bunds die.

Iron: Leaves pale. No spots. Major veins green.

Copper: Pale pink between the veins. Wilt and drop.

Molybdenum: Leaves light green/ lemon yellow/ornge. Spots on whole leaf except veins. Sticky secretions from under the leaf.

Potassium: Small spots on the tips, edges of pale leaves. Spots turn rusty. Folds at tips.

Nitrogen: Stunted growth. Extremely pale color. Upright leaves with light green/yellowish.Appear burnt in extreme deficiency.

THE COLOUR REPRESENTED ARE INDICATIVE.
THEY MAY VARY FROM PLANT TO PLANT