

PHOSPHORUS DEFICIENCY



Phosphorus is essential early in plant growth and later in tuberisation.

Phosphorus deficiency symptoms are not readily recognizable. Stunted greening is an indication of phosphorus deficiency. The plants appear somewhat stunted and have a darker green colour than adjacent non-deficient plants.

As phosphorus deficiency increases in severity, leaf roll (the upward cupping of the the leaf blades) occur and reveals the gray-green colour of the lower surface. Older leaves drop prematurely.

Roots and stolons are reduced in both number and length. No external symptoms can be seen on the tubers, but brown necrotic flecks are found in the tuber flesh.



Optimal conditions for disease

Phosphorus deficiency occurs frequently when soil temperatures are low. It occurs in a wide range of soil types where the initial phosphorus content are low or in heavy soil in which the phosphorus are fixed.