

INTRODUCTION

This book attempts to condense some of the vast amount of information on soil and plant nutrition in a meaningful way. It is also intended to bring out points that aren't stressed in other sources. The perspective of the book is from the point of view of the man in the field. The points stressed are points that have been important to me in my own field experience.

The word "fieldman" is used often herein, as in "the fieldman should be aware of". "Fieldman" could mean the representative of a chemical company but could also mean a farmer or consultant. Look at the word fieldman as being "the man in the field", whether he (she) be chemical company representative, farmer, consultant, farm advisor, student or professor.

For ease of reading, no notations are made in the text. The references and notes in the "Reference Notes" section at the end of the book document or discuss points made in the text. The reference notes are not necessary to the comprehension of the text, but are there for anyone interested in pursuing a particular point. That many of the references are drawn from trade publications (rather than from scientific journals) is not a condescension but a compliment to the material and quality of writing to be found in such publications.

For those wishing more detailed information on a specific topic, there are general references listed at the end of each chapter. A "General Reference" section at the end of the book lists twelve references on soil and plant nutrition; the fieldman that is seriously interested in the subject should either own or have access to most of these references.

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