

Foliar Nutrition . . . More Water Or Less Water When Spraying

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Because we are in the fertilizer industry, we make recommendations in pounds per acre or kilograms per hectare. This is normal and logical ... unless we think more carefully about soil applied nutrients ... particularly the non-mobile nutrients.

If our soil tests show that we need a certain amount of phosphate, we will recommend that amount. If we band this phosphate, we will use less. Why?

The concentration gradient of fertilizer in the soil and root membranes is more important than the amount broadcast across the whole acre. Therefore, we can use less per acre in order to receive the same result ... when we band apply.

We can view foliar fertilizer in much the same way. The concentration of nutrients on the leaf surface may be more important than the total pounds per acre. A higher rate of concentration on the outside of the leaf will make it easier for the nutrient to get into the leaf.

Will this increase the possibility of leaf burning, if less water is used? Yes, because more nutrients will enter the leaf.

Is the same true for the application of hormones? Yes.

This industry needs to learn how to recommend foliar fertilizers as a % of spray water solution for every product. This may be more important than pounds or liters per acre. This is another part of understanding The Language of The Plant.