

Chapter 12

MINERAL NUTRITION

Essential mineral elements and criteria essentiality:

- Plants obtain minerals present in the soil through roots.
- So far 105 elements were discovered out of them more than 60 are found in plants.
- Some plants accumulate selenium others gold while some plants growing near test site take up radioactive strontium.
- Very low concentration of minerals (10^{-8} g/ml) also can be detected.
- There is a question whether all the elements present in plants really necessary for plants?

Criteria for essentiality:

1. Element must be absolutely necessary for supporting normal growth and reproduction.
2. The requirement of element must be specific and not replaceable by other.
3. The element must be directly involved in the metabolism of the plant.