

Tuesday Feb 23, 2010

Glyphosate Induced Hidden Hunger

Glyphosate, the world's No. 1 herbicide is first and foremost a metal chelate. That means it grabs cations floating around in plant cells, microorganisms and the soil and sequesters them away so they are unavailable.

The nutrients most at risk are the micronutrients such as manganese, zinc, iron, copper, nickel because their concentrations are relatively low in the plant and will also chelate calcium magnesium. All carry a single or double positive charge and are cations. And the micronutrients act as cofactors in metabolism. For example about 28 enzymes require manganese as a cofactor.

When nutrients are chelated, they are unavailable and this leads to short term deficiencies in the plant which affects growth and productivity. Many of us are aware that an application of glyphosate does induce a manganese deficiency in soybeans and that we should apply a foliar nutrient package during or after spraying on glyphosate.

Dr. Don Huber, emeritus professor at Purdue University has been speaking and writing on this subject since his retirement and his information is finally getting a lot of attention.

Huber says the best way to overcome the glyphosate-induced deficiency is to apply more nutrients and this in essence detoxifies glyphosate because glyphosate will chelate some of the nutrients and will be sequestered away so it can't affect the remaining free nutrients.

Posted at 09:15AM CST Feb 23, 2010 by Dan Davidson

Comments (2)

Dan I applaud the efforts you and dtn are taking to bring awareness to this issue, I don't believe we need to run scared but embrace this new but interesting information. I would like to offer a copy of the information which we taped of Dr. Huber, and Dr. Mc Neill last December and January at our meetings which Brt Ag & Turf, conducted at Williamsburg, Iowa and Rochester, Minnesota, both will fill in the gaps for you and any of the dtn staff, my complements. Also my complements to Keith Schlapkohl on getting No-till farmer to print the story about Dr. Huber and Bob in February's issue will send a copy if you like. P.S. I have copies of this article and the Eu reports as well, call me. Jeff Littrell N.A.

Posted by Unknown at 10:47PM CST Feb 25, 2010

This topic has great interest in many good minds. Jeff, I need all the info you can send me.

Posted by Ed Winkle at 06:49AM CST Feb 27, 2010