

2011 SPRING APPROACHES IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

by Jeremy O'Brien

Welcome to the First Quarterly edition of the Albion[®] Plant Nutrition Newsletter for 2011. We hope you enjoy the information presented in these newsletters. As Albion continues to grow and expand our markets it creates an interesting set of challenges when it comes to our electronic newsletters. In the past, the primary focus of this newsletter has been to be a medium to present results from research that Albion or one of its distribution partners has performed. While this will continue to be one of the focuses of this publication, it will not be the only focus. We will also include general information of interest from the field of mineral nutrition of plants.

Another of the challenges with this publication, is the subscription list includes readers from all around the world. Some of the regions include: North America, Central America, South America, Mexico, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. As you can imagine when you combine all of these geographical areas of the world there are literally hundreds of crops and nearly every climate and growing condition present.

While a research study on table grapes in South Africa may not mean much to someone in California growing sweet cherries, it is likely that some of the the information and principles can cross over. For example, if a study on table grapes focused on calcium applications to reduce the incidence of internal brown spot and it was noted that the internal brown spot was reduced while at the same time the berry firmness increased, it could make sense that the application of calcium may have the same result on the sweet cherries and increase the cherry firmness. Many scientific discoveries are made in this way, by looking at research on one subject and transferring the ideas to another subject. A good example of this sort of thing happening at Albion Plant

Nutrition is the research that Dr. Gene Lester performed on melons. It came about as a result of a research project that Albion had done with Metalosate[®] Calcium to reduce bitter pit in apples. Dr. Lester read an article about the research in a publication and reasoned that the possibility existed that applications of Metalosate Calcium could increase the shelf life of melons. He contacted Albion and began his research on melons with Metalosate Calcium and then also looked at the application of Metalosate Potassium on melons.

With spring soon approaching the Northern Hemisphere it's time to begin thinking about nutrition programs for crops produced in this region. Typically the first micronutrients applied to many crops are Boron, Zinc and Calcium. Now is the time to start thinking about getting these products in your inventory. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your local Albion Plant Nutrition representative.



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