

Plant Tissue Testing: What to Look For



Visual Cues for Common Deficiencies



Sulfur
Yellowing from whorl to tip,
stunted growth



Nitrogen
Yellowing from tip along
mid-rib



Phosphorus
Purple from tip along margins



Potassium
Yellowing from tip along
margins



Boron
Yellowing and/or reddening of
upper leaves



Zinc
Pale yellow to white tissue
running along both sides of
mid-rib

Plant tissue testing is a great tool for identifying and/or confirming nutrient deficiencies in an actively growing crop. Pull samples from areas that look “normal” or “healthy” in addition to areas that look “abnormal” or “less healthy” to see if a nutrient deficiency is suspect. You can also pull samples across fields to evaluate your current fertility program and monitor if you observe any nutrients that are consistently high or low on your farm.

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