

GUY SELA

FERTILIZATION AND IRRIGATION

THEORY AND BEST PRACTICES

2021 EDITION



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Table of Contents..... | 2 |
| Chapter 1 | 5 |
| The Essential Nutrients | 5 |
| Plant Nutrients - Introduction..... | 6 |
| Nitrogen | 9 |
| Potassium..... | 14 |
| Phosphorus..... | 19 |
| Calcium..... | 23 |
| Magnesium | 26 |
| Sulfur | 29 |
| Iron | 32 |
| Manganese..... | 36 |
| Zinc..... | 39 |
| Copper..... | 42 |
| Boron | 44 |
| Chloride | 47 |
| Silicon | 51 |
| Plant Tissue Analysis..... | 53 |
| Identifying Nutrient Disorders..... | 56 |
| Chapter 2 | 60 |
| The Irrigation Water | 60 |
| Irrigation Water Quality | 61 |
| The Electrical Conductivity..... | 67 |
| The pH..... | 70 |
| Water Alkalinity..... | 72 |
| Hardness | 74 |
| Irrigation Water Analysis | 76 |
| The Principle of Electrical Neutrality..... | 79 |
| Chapter 3 | 82 |
| Soils | 82 |
| Soil Fertility | 83 |
| The Cation Exchange Capacity..... | 86 |
| Soil pH and Acidity..... | 90 |
| Soil Salinity | 93 |
| Managing Soil Salinity..... | 96 |
| Soil Sodicity | 101 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Soil Organic Matter | 106 |
| The Soil Analysis | 110 |
| Units on the Soil Test Report | 118 |
| How to Interpret Soil Test Results | 122 |
| Soil Test Interpretation Guide..... | 125 |
| Raising Soil pH | 128 |
| Quality Parameters of Liming Materials..... | 131 |
| Soil Water Content..... | 134 |
| Chapter 4 | 137 |
| Fertilizer Management | 137 |
| Fertilizer Recommendations Philosophies..... | 138 |
| Yield Response to Fertilizers..... | 141 |
| Calculating Fertilizer Application Rates | 144 |
| Timing of Fertilizer Application | 148 |
| Pre-plant fertilizer application | 150 |
| The Ammonium:Nitrate Ratio..... | 152 |
| Types of Fertilizers..... | 155 |
| Urea..... | 158 |
| Compost: Benefits and Quality Parameters..... | 161 |
| Chelated Micronutrients | 164 |
| Foliar Fertilization..... | 167 |
| Chapter 5 | 171 |
| Fertigation and Soilless Culture | 171 |
| Fertigation..... | 172 |
| Hydroponics..... | 178 |
| Criteria for a Balanced Nutrient Solution | 181 |
| Calculating Nutrient Solution Formulas | 184 |
| Closed Hydroponic Systems | 188 |
| Fertilizer Solubility and Compatibility..... | 191 |
| Fertilizer Stock Solutions..... | 196 |
| Fertilizer Injectors..... | 200 |
| Calibration of Fertilizer Injectors..... | 203 |
| Controlling the Irrigation Water pH..... | 207 |
| Growing Media and Their Properties..... | 211 |
| In-house Nutrient Monitoring in Container Plants | 216 |
| Chapter 6 | 220 |
| Irrigation | 220 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| <u>Water Requirements of Crops.....</u> | <u>221</u> |
| <u>Irrigation Scheduling Using Soil Water Budget Approach.....</u> | <u>224</u> |
| <u>Irrigation Scheduling Using Soil Moisture Sensing.....</u> | <u>227</u> |
| <u>Principles of Irrigation System Design.....</u> | <u>232</u> |
| <u>Drip irrigation Systems.....</u> | <u>237</u> |
| <u>Causes and Prevention of Emitter Clogging.....</u> | <u>243</u> |
| <u>Irrigation Scheduling in Container Plants.....</u> | <u>247</u> |
| <u>Variable Rate Irrigation.....</u> | <u>250</u> |
| <u>Irrigation with Desalinated Water.....</u> | <u>253</u> |
| Appendix I: Conversion Tables..... | 256 |
| Appendix II: Nutrient Uptake by Crops..... | 258 |