SOIL NUTRIENT LEVELS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) has officially released the results of the 2015 North American Soil Test Summary. The summary is the most extensive evaluation of the fertility of North American soils ever conducted. It shows status and trends for several critical nutrients of soil health and provides insights into the sustainability of farming practices. IPNI, or its predecessor the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) has conducted these periodic summary analyses of soil test data for the U.S. states and Canadian provinces since the 1960s. The 2015 summary marks the eleventh in this series.

The 2010 summary showed that many Canadian provinces had decreases in soil P levels from 2005 – 2010 with NB and PEI having the largest decrease in soil P levels. Across North America P levels decreased an average of 6 ppm in that 5 year period (Figure 1.)

Figure 1. Change in median Bray P1 equivalent soil test levels from 2005 to 2010.

Figure 2. shows that K levels dropped an average of 4 ppm across North America from 2005-2010 with virtually every province in Canada showing a decrease in soil K levels.

When we look at the 2015 survey results the trend of decreasing soil P levels continues (Figure 3.)
P levels decreased in QC, ON, and MB while SK and AB had no change in soil P levels (Figure 4.) Figure 5 shows the 2015 survey results for K soil levels.

Every Canadian province (except NB) had a decrease in soil K levels from 2010-2015 (Figure 6.). When we combine this with the 2010 soil survey data we are faced with 10 years of continuous reduction of soil K levels. In many cases the soil K levels are below critical levels for crop production.

With the crop genetics, seed treatments and technology that is available in the industry today we have a higher potential to improve yields than ever before. It is critical to maintain soil nutrient levels to achieve these yields. When you consider it can take between 4 – 20 lbs P2O5 (depending on soil type) to increase soil P by 1 ppm and 8 – 32 lbs K2O (depending on soil type) to increase soil K by 1 ppm it is critical that we soil test regularly and manage our soils for high production agriculture.
A&L Smart Submit

Paperless Sample Submission

In 2013 A&L Canada Laboratories launched A&L Smart Submit, a mobile app to submit soil samples with the convenience of paperless submission forms. We have recently updated Smart Submit to provide a mobile solution to A&L customers to submit their soil, plant tissue and feed samples submission information. This app allows clients to have access to time saving features for accurate sample submission information.

Visit the Apple App Store or Android Play Store and download Smart Submit.

Tutorial on the new Smart Submit App can be viewed on our youtube channel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9Rw4x8y_QI

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

A & L Canada Laboratories
2136 Jetstream Road
London, ON, N5V 3P5

1(855) 837-8347
alcanadalabs@alcanada.com
www.alcanada.com