

### Plant Nutrition vs. Plant Fertilization

**M**any people confuse plant nutrition with plant fertilization. So what is the difference?

Plant nutrition refers to the needs and uses of the basic chemical elements in the plant. The way the plant takes in food to promote growth of the plant and repair damage.

Fertilization is the term used when these materials the plant needs, but may be limited, are supplied to the environment around the plant.

A lot must happen before a chemical element supplied in a fertilizer can be taken up and used by the plant as a nutrient.

Plants need 18 elements for normal growth. Carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen are found in air and water.



Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium, and sulfur are found in the soil. The latter six elements are used in relatively large amounts by the plant and are called macronutrients. There are nine other elements that are used in much smaller amounts; these are called micronutrients or trace elements. The micronutrients, which are found in the soil are iron, zinc, molybdenum, nickel, manganese, boron, copper, cobalt, and chlorine. All 18 elements, both macronutrients and micronutrients are essential for plant growth.

Since the micronutrient zinc can often be limited, using Nulex Liquid Zinc can fertilize the corn plant giving the plant the proper nutrition required.