

Crediton Monitor Farm

Meeting 13 : Soils and crop nutrition

2 February 2017

Village Hall, Shobrooke

Speaker: Joel Williams

For more information, visit:
cereals.ahdb.org.uk/crediton



James Lee, Crediton Monitor Farmer

Meeting summary – key messages

1. Nutrient management is key for biological disease management – micro and macro nutrients
2. Look at leaf and soil together
3. Invest in a refractometer to get an overall assessment of plant health. A refractometer uses refractive light to take a reading of nutrient levels. A high rating is good – crops should be healthy, disease and pest resistance, high in nutritional value and potential yield.
4. Manure and composts are the food source for the soil system
5. Ideally give manure time (i.e. composted) to increase its microbial diversity
6. Balance green manures (for nitrogen) and brown manures (for carbon)

Meeting presentation

Joel's presentation contains lots of really useful information, and can be found on the Crediton Monitor Farm [website](#). Take a look and test your knowledge with the quiz overleaf.

For more information, use the links below:

- [AHDB soil research](#) – provides links to information on soil research
- [AHDB soil management](#) – access practical information including [AHDB field drainage guide](#), soil management [guides](#) and tools for [assessing soil condition](#)
- Discover more about your soil health and [biology](#), including how to conduct your own [earthworm assessments](#)



Test your knowledge

- Q:** Sap pH is low (acidic) – what 4 cations are likely lacking? **A:** Ca, Mg, K, Na
- Q:** Brix is low – which mineral is lacking? **A:** Any!
- Q:** Sap pH is low (acidic) and Brix is low and crisp – what mineral is likely lacking? **A:** Ca
- Q:** Sap pH is low (acidic) and Brix is moderate and blurry – which minerals are likely lacking? **A:** Mg, K or Na
- Q:** Brix is lower in younger leaves – which mineral is likely lacking? **A:** Ca or S
- Q:** Brix is lower in older leaves – which mineral is likely lacking? **A:** K
- Q:** Brix reading is same in morning as it was yesterday afternoon – which mineral is likely lacking? **A:** Bo
- Q:** Sap pH is high (alkaline) – what 4 anions are likely low? **A:** N, P, Bo, S
- Q:** Insect and disease is prevalent together – what 4 nutrients are likely lacking? **A:** N, P, Bo, S

Arable Business Group - Benchmarking

The Crediton Monitor Farm benchmarking Group is continuing. If you wish to join, please contact

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Crediton Monitor Farm Programme

The Monitor Farm programme at Crediton has now concluded but continues elsewhere across the South West. For more information, please contact your AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Knowledge Exchange Manager:

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