




Phosphorus deficiency in Maize

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
 <p>Phosphorus deficiency in maize Chlorotic symptoms on lower leaves of maize (Courtesy of the International Plant Nutrition Institute)</p>  <p>Yellow colouration in V-shaped pattern (South Dakota State University)</p>  <p>Cornandsoybeandigest.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Test your soil for Phosphorus levels 1-2 months before planting ◆ Practice soil conservation measures to prevent erosion of top soil which is rich in soil organic matter and nutrients ◆ Improve water holding capacity in the field by application of soil amendments such as lime and manure ◆ Ensure weed-free field to reduce nutrient competition ◆ Use organic manures (see direct control green column) 	<p>Look out for affected plants in the field with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Purple colouration on younger leaves ◆ Yellowing on older leaves forming a V-shape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use bio-slurry from biogas digesters or animal shed at the rate of 1 litre/square metre (4000/l) ◆ Use organic fertilizer from compost or farm yard manure at the rate of 10 tons per hectare ◆ Use organic fertilizers (yad bio-vitalizer, Mijingu)at recommended rates ◆ Leave the farm fallow for at least 1 season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Apply inorganic basal fertilizer with Phosphorus (e.g NPK, DAP) during planting as recommended after soil testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ When applying fertilizers always wear protective clothing. ◆ Store fertilizers in dry conditions and away from pesticides ◆ Always dispose of excess fertilizers properly in designated areas.

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