

healthy maize, better harvest

potassium



Role of K in maize growth

- Controls how plants use water
- Helps plants to survive in drought
- Helps stems to be strong and healthy
- Helps plants resist attacks by pests and diseases



Potassium deficiency in maize

Appears as burning or scorching on the outer edges of the leaves (starting from the lower leaves) with the inner part remaining green. The maize roots will be poor, and the plants can easily fall.

Common sources of potassium

Muriate of potash (MOP) and NPK.

Amount of K fertilizer to be applied depends on:

- The expected yield
- The amount of K in the soil

NOTE: If potassium is deficient, apply potassium fertilizer to the soil at planting

For better maize yields, apply the right type and amount of fertilizer, at the right time, and in the right place.

Working in partnership to create down-to-earth messages on integrated soil fertility management

Issued by IPNI for smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa- August 2013; based on the 4 'rights' of sustainable nutrient management

For more information, contact your extension officer or:
International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI)
email: snjoroge@ipni.net

