Zinc deficient rice, with symptoms on younger tissue.

the portion of the plant where specific symptoms are likely to first occur.

Visual deficiency symptoms are usually indicative of severe conditions and less acute shortages may not be so readily identified. The effects of other stresses such as drought and pests can complicate diagnoses. It is worth noting too that some crops are more susceptible to specific deficiencies than others, and toxicities of some nutrients can occur as well. Therefore, it behooves those involved in crop production – from the field consultant to the university professor – to have access to an accurate and dependable reference on nutrient deficiency and toxicity symptoms. One such resource is published by the American Phytopathological Society. The book, entitled *Nutrient Deficiencies & Toxicities In Crop Plants*, is one of the timeless, dependable standards on the subject, and is recommended for the library of any agriculturist. Details on availability and purchase are shown below.

The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) also has a database of nutrient deficiency images that is under continual development. Visit the website at: http://media.ipni.net

The topic of nutrient deficiencies, toxicities, and balance is particularly appropriate in today's environment. As population increases and the world rumbles with the food crises, the role of agricultural producers and their advisers grow ever more important. Sound crop nutrition, and the skills and information necessary to implement it, is central to meeting the growing demands for agricultural goods. BC

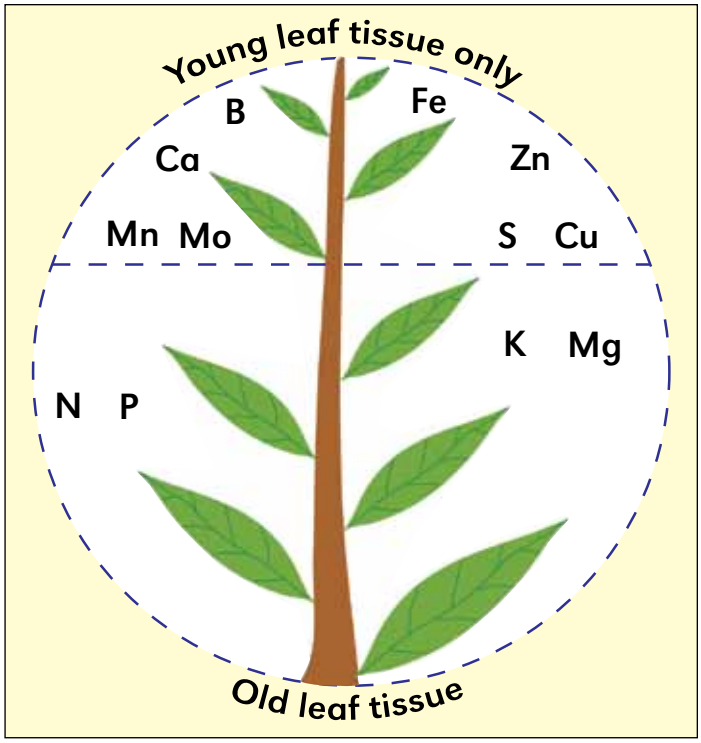

Figure 1. This generalized diagram indicates the portion of the plant where various nutrient deficiency symptoms are typically first observed. The more mobile a nutrient is within the plant, the more likely symptoms will appear on older leaves first.

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