Manganese Nutrition of Soybeans





Function of Manganese

- The splitting of the water molecule (Hill Reaction) and subsequent evolution of O₂
- Activates enzymes leading to the biosynthesis of lignin and flavonoids. Flavonoids in legumes stimulate nodulation gene expression.



Mn Function in N Nutrition

- Responsible for degradation of fixed N transported from roots to shoots.
 - Ureides are products of N-fixation in nodulated legumes and transported from the nodule to the shoot, where they are broken down.
 - Manganese is a required cofactor of ureide breakdown

Manganese Uptake

- Mn is taken up and transported as Mn⁺²
- Mn is relatively immobile in the plant and is scarcely translocated in the phloem.



Availability of Mn⁺² in Soil Solution



Mn nutrition problems with herbicide resistant soybeans

 Insertion of gene giving herbicide resistance may have changed soybean root exudates. Plants solublize less Mn than conventional soybeans.

 Glyphosate application may interfere with Mn metabolism within the plant.

Glyphosate

 Glyphosate inhibits the shikimate pathway, responsible for the biosynthesis of phenolics, flavonoids and lignin.

 Mn reducing soil microorganisms also posses the shikimate pathway.

What is 'shikimate pathway' you ask??



Glyphosate

- Glyphosate inhibits the shikimate pathway, responsible for the biosynthesis of phenolics, flavonoids and lignin.
- Mn reducing soil microorganisms also posses the shikimate pathway.
- Glyphosate is an organic compound and can persist in the rhizosphere and can interfere with Mn-reducing microorganisms.

Site Description

Crete silt loam soil pH = 7.0 Bray-1P = 25ppm K = 236 ppm OM = 2.9%

Treatments

- Varieties: KS 4202 and KS 4202 RR
- Mn rates: 0, 2.5, 5.0 and 7.5 lb/acre
- Application Method: Banded at planting
- Source MnSO₄ (24% Mn).





Mn Application Effects on Leaf Tissue Mn Concentration, 2005-2006



Mn Application Effects on Soybean Yield, 2005-2006.



Liquid Applied Manganese Effects on Soybean Yield, 2005-2007

Stage of Growth	Yield, bu/acre
Untreated check	66
Starter (.3 lb)	66
Starter (.6 lb)	70
Starter (.3 lb) + V4 (0.3 lb)	74
V4 (0.3 lb)	66
V4+V8 (0.3+0.3 lb)	72
V4+V8+R2 (0.3+0.3+0.3 lb)	74
LSD (0.05)	3

Liquid Mn Source Effects on Soybean Yield, 2006-2007

Material (.3lb Mn/a	Yield, bu/acre
V4+V8+R2)	
Mn Thiosulfate	75
Mn Glucoheptonate	73
Mn Mannitol	74
LSD (0.05)	NS

Conclusions

- Conventional and Glyphosate-Resistant soybeans did respond differently to Mn application.
- Addition of Mn significantly improved soybean yields in glyphosate-resistant varieties.
- Mn application fits in well with a soybean production program managed for high-yield.