

## **What is a Plant Nutrient? Changing Definitions to Advance Science and Innovation in Plant Nutrition**

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Current definitions of essential or beneficial elements for plant growth rely on narrowly defined criteria that do not fully represent the nutrients required for optimal plant performance. This compromises fertilizer regulation and practice. A new definition of what is a plant nutrient has the potential to revitalize fertilizer innovation and discovery. The new definition reads: A mineral plant nutrient is an element which is essential or beneficial for plant growth and development or for the quality attributes of the plant or harvested product, of a given plant species, grown in its natural or cultivated environment. This talk will provide a brief history of plant nutrition and a new definition for what is a plant nutrient.