AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

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MINERAL DEFICIENT SOILS -- A MYTH

Most soils are basically deficient in essential minerals! That statement is absolutely untrue, yet it is the general belief of farmers in modern agriculture. It is also one of their most expensive beliefs.

Farmers the world over have allowed themselves to be convinced this need is so real and so universal that they spend multiple millions of pounds on 'ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS' every single year! To this astronomical sum can be added most of what is spent on 'NATURAL MINERALS' from ground-up rocks!

Mineral deficiencies have been glibly talked of for so long most of us take them for granted. We never stop to think just what we are saying. Many people, farmers in particular need to pause and ask themselves -- WHAT IS SOIL?

It is millions of rock particles (i.e. apart from any organic content it may have acquired). These usually vary in size from the microscopic, all the way to perhaps cricket ball size, or even larger. Regardless of size they are still rock in origin and rocks are composed of minerals.

This means minerals form the basis and bulk of all soil. It is therefore ridiculous to speak loosely of soil being deficient in minerals.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE MINERALS -- YOU DON'T HAVE SOIL!!

There are still a few men in the world who are very conscious of this vital point. Let's see what one or two of them have to say: "a soil and subsoil deficient in phosphates, potash and trace elements . . . is one with which I have had no personal experience, and, to be frank, I find some difficulty in imagining it. I cannot understand how a soil so deficient in essential elements has even been able to support either human, animal, or vegetable life" (Make Friends With Your Land, by L. Wickenden, p. 115).

Another author states that: "The number of years required for the removal of the amount of the several ash ingredients standing to the credit of the surface foot of soil:

POTASH	enough	to	last	1521 years
SODA	"	"	"	4050 "
MAGNESIA	"	"	"	3300 "
LIME	"	"	"	4387 "
PHOSPHORIC ACID	"	"	"	542 "
SULPHURIC ACID	"	"	"	292 "
SOLUBLE ACID	"	"	"	17650 "

"When it is observed that cultivated plants send their roots foraging through not less than the upper four feet of soil and that the amounts of ash ingredients which

have been considered are only those which chemical analysis tells us are to be found in the surface foot, it seems well-nigh impossible that there could ever be a deficiency in any one of the ash ingredients which plants find essential to their well-being" (The Soil by F. H. King, page 104).

King's quote of hundreds of years for the potential mineral supply of the average soil may be somewhat 'off' but at least he recognizes there is an abundant supply!

Perhaps we need reminding they were put there very deliberately by our Creator to sustain human life, (Gen. 1:1, Gen. 2:4, and Acts 17:26).

AVAILABILITY OF MINERALS -- is the real problem facing agriculturalists the world over!!

Minerals become naturally available to plant-life only when farmers and gardeners get in harmony with God's laws. He has left man without excuse by demonstrating these laws in constant operation on the forest floor.

Once we put these principles of organic farming into practice the problem of mineral availability will slowly disappear. Only then will our plant-life reflect the health that comes from a mineral diet received in the correct form and right balance!

God's wisdom and forethought are clearly shown by the imposition of this law governing the release of minerals. They are the means of sustaining man's body in health, yet if they had been available in unlimited quantities, man's greed would surely have exhausted many of them long ago.

Instead, God designed a system whereby minerals are locked up and only meant to be released to the agriculturally obedient. Even to them only a little is released, day by day and year by year.

Natural minerals (ground up from their rock form and not chemically treated) should be used on any soil that is literally deficient. These natural products are usually available to any who are willing to make the effort to obtain them. Sometimes they can also be used profitably during the change-over from 'chemical' to organic farming. (For further details on chemical farming write for our article by that name.)

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT