

Greenhouse Container Media Parameters

Soilless media, commonly known as potting soil, is very different from agricultural soils. Potting media can be comprised of many different components such as pine bark, wood shavings, perlite, vermiculite and compost. Fertility management in soilless media is important. Its' composition typically has good moisture holding capacity and aeration properties, but can be limited in nutrient holding abilities.

The table below lists parameters of typical soilless and should be used as a general guide for your fertility management program.

Element	Low	Adequate	Optimum	High	Very High
Ammonia-N	<10	11--20	21--50	51--75	>75
Nitrate-N	<40	40--99	100-199	200--299	>300
Phosphorus	<3	3--5.9	6--10.9	11--19	>20
Potassium	<60	160--149	150--249	250--349	>350
Magnesium	<30	30--69	70--80	*	>80
Calcium	<80	80--199	200-225	>225	*
pH	<5.6	*	5.7--6.5	6.6--6.8	>6.8
Soluble Salts	<0.75	0.75--1.90	2.0--3.4	3.5--5.0	>5
Sulfur	<20	20--50	*	50--100	>100
Boron	<0.05	0.05--0.50	0.60--1.0	1.0--2.0	>2.0
Zinc	<0.10	0.10--0.50	*	0.6--2.0	>2.0
Manganese	<0.10	0.10--0.50	*	3.1--5.0	>5.0
Iron	<0.30	0.31--3.0	*	3.1--5.0	>5.0
Copper	<0.02	0.02-0.30	*	0.31--0.50	>0.50