

Common Nutrient Deficiencies in Cereals

No. 2 May, 2020

Mark Plunkett, Teagasc, Johnstown Castle

Images of some nutrient deficiencies currently in fields of spring crops

P / Mg / Lime

Phosphorus (P)

See suspected P deficiency below with purpling of leaf margins. This sample is from a high soil pH 7.9 field.



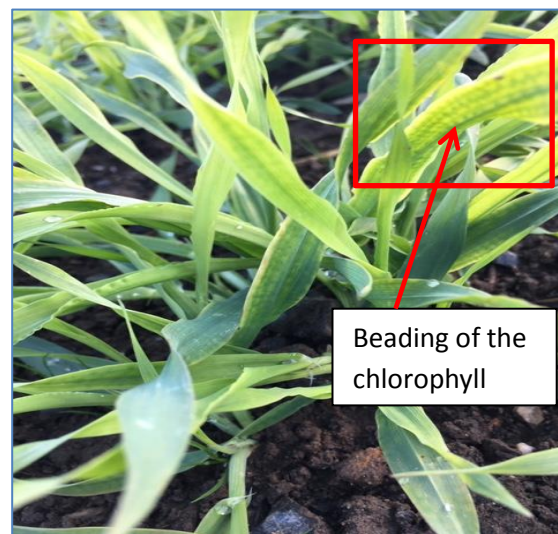
Due to high soil pH and prolonged dry weather conditions encountered over the past few months. This will further reduce soil P availability at a critical time of plant development (tillering & rooting).

An application of foliar P should help to rectify crop P shortage in the short term. Fertiliser P application will be ineffective at this stage.

Magnesium (Mg)

Magnesium deficiency in spring barley showing beading of the chlorophyll / bleached leaf margins.

This crop would require treatment under current soil conditions. Apply foliar form of Mg to help rectify deficiency.



Lime Deficiency

A lime deficiency can be difficult to diagnose (check soil test) as it may be reducing the uptake of other nutrients such as P, K, Mg etc.... So there may be other plant symptoms showing up too for example a P or K deficiency. Lime deficiency symptoms tend to be leaf yellowing with restricted / stunted growth with some rolling of the leaves. The picture below shows a suspected lime deficiency due to low soil pH.

