

Plant Available Elements

Plant available elements are those elements which are accessible to plants during a growing season.

These include:

- Water-soluble elements
- Exchangeable elements

Ecological Importance:

The knowledge about the plant available elements is important for optimizing the fertilization strategy. Is the demand of a crop (with an expected yield) exceeding the existing amount of plant available nutrients in the soil, an input is necessary (e.g. fertilizer).

The favourable ratios of the nutrients are of high importance!

The Quantity of plant available Elements is influenced by:

Input of mineral and organic fertilizer, tillage, crop rotation, biological activity, ion antagonism, ion synergism.

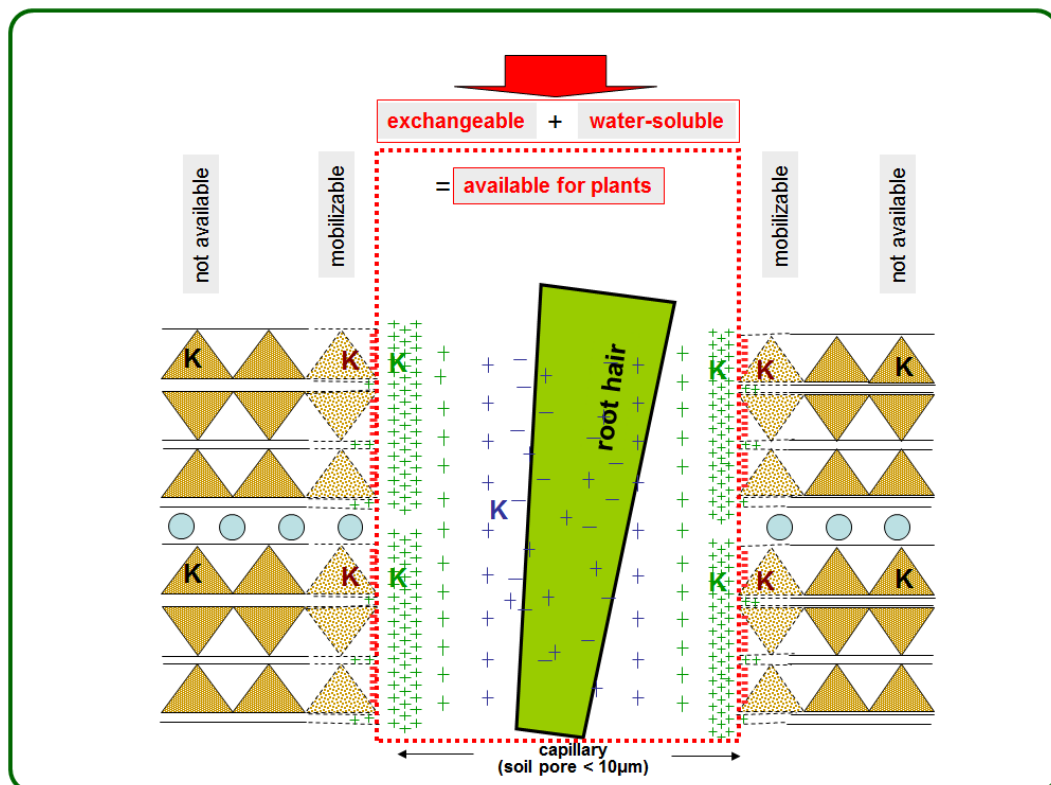


Figure: Soil pore, elements (e.g. K) in different solubilities, highlighted: elements available for plants.