

A NOTE ON THE NUTRIENT ELEMENT RATIO
IN RELATION TO FOLIAR YELLOWING IN
COCONUT PALM

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ABSTRACT

The major nutrient composition of coconut leaves from healthy palms and from palms affected by foliar yellowing was studied and the role of major nutrients and their ratio on the incidence of yellowing was evaluated. The N and P contents did not differ between healthy and affected palms. The K content was higher in affected palms while the Ca and Mg contents were higher in healthy palms. Evaluation of nutrient element ratio indicated that the palms affected by foliar yellowing were in a state of unbalanced nutrition, particularly among the major cations, with wider K/Ca, K/Mg and Ca/Mg ratios compared to healthy palms.