

# Effect of Season Position and Age of Leaf on the Major Nutrient Composition of Cashew

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The major nutrients are found to deplete in older leaves and accumulate in the fully matured leaves of the current season's growth. The magnitude of variance in the nutrient contents of the bottom and top fully matured leaves is found marginal.

The nutrient variability as influenced by the season, position of the leaf and age of the leaf was studied in eight year old cashew trees. Twenty trees were selected for sampling purpose. Fresh and fully matured leaves were collected all around the tree at two positions i.e., bottom and top, before and after flowering i.e., January and May and analysed for major nutrients.

## *Effect of season*

N.P and K. contents of fully matured leaves were significantly higher during May compared to January (Table 1).

## *Effect of position*

N.P and K. contents of cashew leaves collected either from bottom or top positions did not differ significantly during both seasons (Table 1).

## *Effect of age*

Before fruiting, N contents of fully matured leaves of previous flush maintained higher values as compared to the new flush. However, after fruiting freshly matured leaves recorded significantly higher content of nitrogen compared to matured leaves of pre-fruiting season. (Table 1).

## *Phosphorus and potassium*

A marginal increase in phosphorus and potassium contents of new flush was observed before fruiting as compared to the matured leaves of previous season. However, after fruiting the increase in phosphorus and potassium contents of fully matured leaves of that season was three fold and significantly superior to matured leaves of pre-fruiting season.

TABLE 1. Effect of Season, Leaf Position and Age on the Nutrient Composition of Cashew Leaf

		% of		
		N	P	K
<i>Effect of season</i>				
Before fruiting	(January)	1.41	0.09	0.63
After fruiting	(May)	1.49	0.12	0.79
<i>Effect of leaf position</i>				
Before fruiting	Bottom	1.37	0.09	0.68
	Top	1.46	0.09	0.58
After fruiting	Bottom	1.49	1.12	0.81
	Top	1.49	1.12	0.77
<i>Effect of Age</i>				
<i>Before fruiting</i>				
	Fully matured (previous season)	1.49	0.08	0.60
	Freshly matured (current season)	1.34	0.09	0.66
<i>After fruiting</i>				
	Fully matured (previous season)	1.19	0.06	0.46
	Freshly matured (current season)	1.79	0.18	1.13