



Plant-Specific Nutrient Requirements

Understanding Heavy, Moderate, and Light Feeders

Presented by Shelter International e.V.



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Moderate

Leavy

Light Feeders

Nutrient Needs Overview

Understanding Plant Nutrient Requirements

Different plants have varying nutrient requirements, categorized as heavy, moderate, or light feeders. Matching these needs ensures optimal growth and health, enhancing both yield and flavor.

Understanding Heavy, Moderate, and Light Feeders



Plant Classification

Heavy, moderate, and light feeders require varying nutrients.



Nutrient Needs Overview

Heavy Feeders: Nutrient-Rich Plants



Tomatoes

Heavy feeders requiring rich nutrients for growth.
(NPK needs: 5-10-10)



Peppers

Nutrient-dense plants thriving with proper care.
(NPK needs: 5-10-10)

Moderate Feeders: Lettuce & Spinach



Lettuce

Requires steady nutrients for optimal growth and health. (NPK needs: 5-5-5)



Spinach

Thrives with moderate feeding and rich soil nutrients. (NPK needs: 6-6-6)

Light Feeders: Rosemary and Thyme



Rosemary

Prefers lean soil for rich flavor production. (NPK needs: 3-3-3 or less)



Thyme

Thrives in minimal nutrients, enhancing taste profile. (NPK needs: 3-3-3 or less)



Special Considerations

High-Nutrient Herbs Overview



Basil

Basil thrives with moderate fertilization for robust growth.

NPK needs: 5-5-5



Parsley

Parsley benefits from steady nutrient supply for flavor.

NPK needs: 5-5-5



Cilantro

Cilantro prefers lean soil for enhanced taste and aroma.

NPK needs: 5-5-5

Low-Nutrient Herb Characteristics



Flavor Enhancement

Lean soil boosts flavor and essential oils. NPK needs: 2-3-3 or even less

Minimal Feeding

Light nutrient applications are best for growth.

Soil Preference

Well-drained soil supports healthy herb development.

Soil pH Importance

Why pH Matters:

- Controls nutrient availability
- Affects microbial activity
- Influences plant uptake efficiency

Testing Soil pH

Methods:

1. Soil pH meter: Insert probe in moist soil, instant reading (€10-30)
2. pH test kit: Chemical test strips, color-matched chart (€5-15)
3. DIY vinegar/baking soda test: Rough estimate (free).

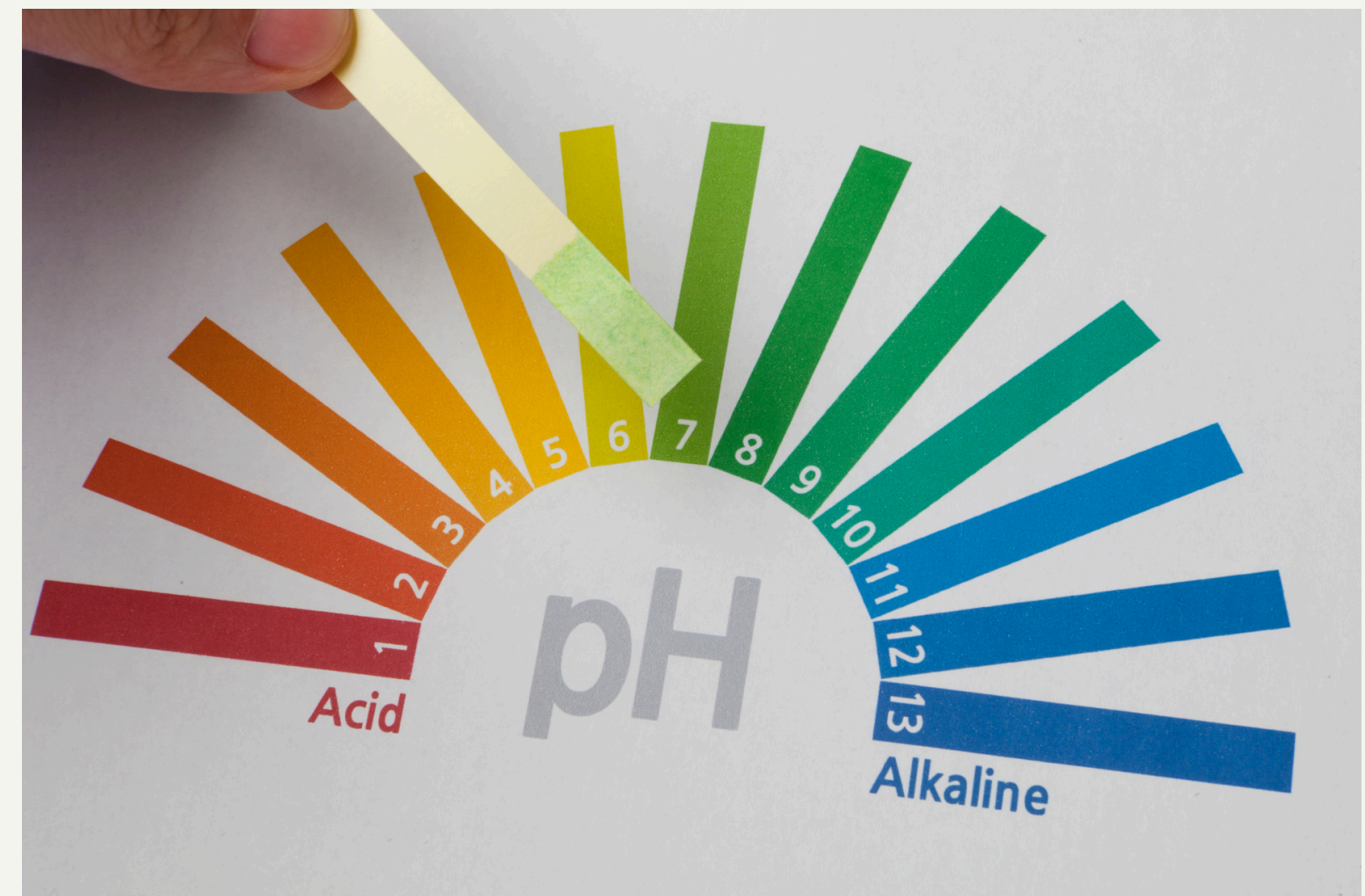


Soil PH



Soil pH Scale

Soil pH significantly affects nutrient availability for plants. Understanding the range from acidic to alkaline ensures optimal conditions for healthy growth and nutrient uptake. Regular testing is essential.





Adjusting Soil pH

Nutrient Availability by pH:

Too acidic (<6.0): Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium less available; aluminum, manganese toxic levels

Optimal (6.2-6.8): Most nutrients readily available

Too alkaline (>7.5): Iron, manganese, phosphorus less available; causes yellowing

Adjusting Soil pH

Understanding how to **raise or lower soil pH** is essential for nutrient availability, ensuring plants can access the necessary elements for optimal growth and health.

To Raise pH (Make Less Acidic):

- Add dolomitic lime: 2-3 tbsp per 10L
- Add wood ash: 1-2 tbsp per 10L (careful, very strong)
- Retest after 1 week

To Lower pH (Make Less Alkaline):

- Add elemental sulfur: Follow package directions
- Add peat moss or coco coir (slightly acidic)
- Use acidic fertilizers (ammonium sulfate)
- Retest after 1 week



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