NSW banana soil analysis interpretation guidelines

General ratings for interpreting soil tests for subtropical bananas

	Value	ie < 4.		5-5	5.1-6.0		6.1-6.5		6.6-7.3		7.4-8.4	8.5->9
pH (1:5 water)	Categ	ory	ry Extrem strong acid		Strong acid to mediu acid	gly Slightly acid		Neutral			Mildly to moderately alkaline	Strongly to very strongly alkaline
			-				Optimu	m				
Test		Units rating	/ J	Very lov	v	Low		Mec	lium	Hi	gh	Very high
Electrical conductivity	(1:5)	dS/m mS/cn	(or n)	< 0.	15	0.15	5–0.45	0.	.45–0.90		0.9–2.0	> 2.0
Chloride (1:5)		mg/kg		< 100		100-300		300-600			600–2000	> 2000
Organic carbon		%		< 0.5		0.5–1.5		1.5–2.5			2.5–5.0	> 5.0
Colwell P		mg/kg	9	< 2	0	20)–45		45–75		75–100	> 100
Fertiliser P		kg/ha		70 at pla 20–60/r	anting atoon	70 at 20–60	planting)/ratoon	20 a 20	at planting 0/ratoon		0	0
Sulphate-sulp	ohur¹	mg/kg	9	< !	5	5	–10		10–20		20–100	> 100
Exchangeable potassium ²		cmol/kg or me/100 g		< 0.1		0.1–0.2		0.2–0.5			0.5–1.0	> 1.0
Exchangeable calcium ²		cmol/kg or me/100 g		Concentrations vary widely and general ratings are unreliable								
Exchangeable magnesium ²	changeable cr agnesium ² m		kg or)0 g	Concentrations vary widely and general ratings are unreliable								
DTPA copper		mg/kg	9	< 0	.1	0.1	I–0.3		0.3–5		5–15	> 15
DTPA zinc (pH > 7)		mg/kg		< 0.3		0.3	3–0.8		0.8–5		5–15	> 15
DTPA zinc (pH < 7)		mg/kg		< 0.2		0.2	2–0.5		0.5–5		5–15	> 15
DTPA manganese		mg/kg		< 1.0		1.0	0–2.0		2.0–50		50–100	> 500
Boron ³	pron ³ r)	< 0.5		0.5	5–1.0		1.0–2.0		2–5	> 5
Exchangeable sodium %			< 6 non-sodic			6–14		sodic			< 14 strongly sodic	
Optimu	um	N	eeds a	attentior	M	ight be or lir	damagir niting	ng	 ¹ Sulphate sulphur – calcium phosphate extractable ² Exchangeable cations – ammonium chloride or ammonium acetate 			bhate extractable ım chloride or

³ Boron – hot water extractable





Department of Primary Industries

NSW banana leaf analysis interpretation guidelines

General ratings for interpreting leaf tests for subtropical bananas

Nutriont	llait	Optimum levels						
Nutrient	Unit	Cavendish NSW	Lady finger NSW	Cavendish NQ				
Nitrogen	%	2.80-4.00	2.40-3.20	2.80-3.50				
Phosphorus	%	0.19–0.25	0.15–0.20	0.19–0.22				
Potassium	%	3.00-4.00	2.40-3.20	3.20–4.80				
Calcium	%	0.74–1.25	0.74–1.25	0.50–1.00				
Magnesium	%	0.30–0.46	0.30–0.46	0.27–0.40				
Boron	mg/kg	10–20	10–20	-				
Zinc	mg/kg	20–35	20–35	_				

The information presented in this document are intended as a guide only. For more accurate and appropriate interpretation of soil and leaf test results, and subsequent fertiliser recommendations, it is advisable to consult a professional.

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