AMMONIUM ABSORPTION BY MAIZE (*Zea mays*, L.) UNDER INCREASING PERIODS OF PHOSPHORUS STARVATION IN NUTRITIVE SOLUTION. J.V. de Magalhães[2*], V.M.C. Alves[3], R.F. de Novais[2], J.R. Magalhães[4], A.F. de C. Bahia Filho[3], [2]Depto. de Solos, UFV, Viçosa, MG, 36570-000, Brasil, [3]Centro Nacional de Pesquisa de Milho e Sorgo, EMBRAPA, Cx.P. 151, Sete Lagoas, MG, Brasil, [4]Centro Nacional de Pesquisa de Recursos Genéticos e Biotecnologia, EMBRAPA, Cx.P. 02372, Brasilia, DF, Brasil.

In order to evaluate the sensitivity of ammonium absorption as a function of the phosphorus suply in the nutritive solution, seedlings of the male progenitor of the maize double cross BR 201 were grown for seven days in complete nutritive solution. Beginning at this age, absorption kinetics of ammonium were done in plants under prior phosphorus starvation and non starvation for 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 days. The phosphorus ressuply during the kinetic period was also tested. The phosphorus starvation caused reduction of ammonium absorption, increasing the effect as the period of starvation increased. This response was completely reverted by the phosphorus ressuply in the first periods and only partially in the longest periods of starvation.