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## ANÁLISE E INTERPRETAÇÃO DO POTÁSSIO NO SOLO

### ABSTRACT

#### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF POTASSIUM IN THE SOIL

The high potassium (K) demand by cultures contrasts with the concentrations, in general insufficient, that occur in Brazilian soils, a fact that has been leading to a great increase in K fertilizers consumption, accompanying the astounding growth of the Brazilian agricultural production in the past few years. The diversity of soil situations, crops and fertilizing managements make it necessary to diagnose the K in the soil, in each case, as one of the prerequisites for the prescription of fertilizers, which needs to be adapted according to the region and the culture. The total concentration of K in the soil is distributed in a wide range of retention force, varying continually, from the portions of the element closely linked to the structure of the primary minerals hardly weathered to the freest portions that are water soluble. The forms of K linked to the solid phase of the soil are balanced with the K concentrations in the solution. However, the speed in which each

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