Leaf Analyses

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Don't forget to sample fruit and nut tree leaves for nutrient analysis in July. Leaf analyses are very effective tools to prevent nutrient deficiency-induced crop loss. They can also save you money by preventing over-fertilization. Check your results against the chart below.

Nutrient	ALMONDS			PEACHES / NECTARINES		PLUMS / PRUNES	
	Deficient if below	Adequate over	Excessive over	Deficient if below	Optimum range	Deficient if below	Optimum range
Macronutrients (levels in %)							
Calcium (Ca)		2.0			>1.0		>1.0
Chlorine (Cl)			0.3		<0.3		<0.3
Magnesium (Mg)		0.25		0.25	>0.25	0.25	>0.25
Nitrogen (N)	2.0	2.2-2.5		2.3	2.6-3.0		2.3-2.8
Phosphorus (P)		0.1-.03			0.1-0.3		0.1-0.3
Potassium (K)	1.0	1.4		1.0	>1.2	1.0	>1.1
Sodium (Na)			0.25				
Sulfur (S) [2]							
Micronutrients (levels in ppm)							
Boron (B)*	30	30-65	300	18	20-80	25	30-80
Copper (Cu)		4			>4	4	>4
Manganese (Mn)		20		20	>20	20	>30
Molybdenum [2]							
Zinc (Zn)	15			15	>20	18	>18

*Critical values for boron deficiency and toxicity are currently being revised. Hull boron >300 ppm is excessive. Leaf sampling is not effective to determine excess boron.
1. For peaches and nectarines, leaves from the basal half of moderately vigorous fruiting shoots 10 to 20 inches long are sampled. For plums and prunes, leaves from non-fruiting spurs are sampled.
2. Deficiency not known to occur in California