



Liebig's Law of the minimum

- States that growth is controlled not by the total of resources available, but by the scarcest resource (limiting factor).
- This concept was originally applied to plant or crop growth, where it was found that increasing the amount of plentiful nutrients did not increase plant growth. Only by increasing the amount of the limiting nutrient (the one most scarce in relation to "need") was the growth of a plant or crop improved.





Liebig's Barrel Analogy

Name	Chemical symbol	Relative % in plant to N	Function in plant
Primary macro	-nutrients		
Nitrogen	N	100	Proteins, amino acids
Phosphorus	P	6.0	Nucleic acids, ATP
Potassium	К	25.0	Catalyst, ion transport
Secondary mad	cro-nutrients		
Calcium	Ca	12.5	Cell wall component
Magnesium	Mg		Part of chlorophyll
Sulfur			Amino acids
Iron	Fe	0.2	Chlorophyll synthesis
Micro-nutrient			
Copper	Cu	0.01	Component of enzymes
Manganese	Mn	0.1	Activates enzymes
Zinc	Zn	0.03	Activates enzymes
Boron		0.2	Cell wall component
Molybdenum	Mo	0.0001	Involved in N fixation
Chlorine	Cl	0.3	Photosynthesis reactions























