

# The eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition online learning network

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## Key points

At the eXtensionAUS website you can:

- » find the most recent information on emerging crop nutrition issues
- » watch an interview with one of our experts
- » follow us on Twitter
- » sit in on a webinar
- » ask a question of our national team of experts at any time
- » become part of Australia's largest, research-based learning network.

## Introduction

### What is eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition?

If you are a grower or adviser, or looking for the most up-to-date information on crop nutrition, then eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition can provide you with the most innovative option in Australia to date.

As an online learning network, eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition is located within the eXtensionAUS website and can be accessed to complement your regular knowledge and information gathering systems. So think of eXtensionAUS as exactly that – an extension of your current advice channels that contains a wealth of information and advice – direct from the experts, in real time.

Based on a successful long-term eXtension Program in the USA, eXtensionAUS is quickly gaining in popularity amongst grain growers and industry. NSW DPI has gathered experts from across the country to take part in the program so we can deliver timely, relevant, evidence-based information to you when you need it. Also available on the eXtensionAUS network is eXtensionAUS Field Crop Diseases.

### How does it work?

At the eXtensionAUS website you can find the most recent information on emerging crop nutrition issues, watch an interview with one of our experts, follow us on Twitter or sit in on a webinar. You can ask a question of our national team of experts at any time. You can even join us and become part of Australia's largest, research-based learning network, working alongside your peers in a Community of Practice (CoP).

### How do I access eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition?

Visit [www.extensionaus.com.au](http://www.extensionaus.com.au) and select Crop Nutrition, or follow us on Twitter @AuCropNutrition, and become part of the network (Figure 1).

### What information is available?

Information found on eXtensionAUS is sourced from experts in state departments of agriculture, universities, CSIRO and industry bodies. Sources are typically the same people you would see presenting at GRDC cropping updates such as Mark Conyers (southern NSW), Chris Dowling and Mike Bell (northern zone), Roger Armstrong (Vic.), Nigel Wilhelm (SA) and Craig Scanlan (WA). Published articles cover important crop nutrition issues, timed as much as possible to be released when relevant to the topic or responding to issues emerging in the current season.

As eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition is led by a CoP that includes many of Australia's leading crop nutritionists, each article must be approved by two members of the CoP before it can be published. So you can be confident the information is of the highest quality and relevance. Visit the website to see more about the CoP.

The top 10 eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition articles in 2015 were:

1. Do you know your nitrogen use efficiency?
2. What happens to P (phosphorus) from crop residues?
3. What nutrients are lost when making hay from failed crops?
4. Spotlight: Fertiliser calculator
5. How critical is the critical level?

6. What is the value of fixed N (nitrogen)?
7. No-till soils and strategic tillage
8. Manage pH for profit
9. 2015 crop prospects and nitrogen
10. Uneven urea spreading costs \$\$\$.

Examples of other published articles on eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition include:

- » Soil test deeper to predict response to potassium fertiliser
- » Potassium and crop stress
- » Using deep soil cores for nitrogen, potassium and sulfur
- » Webinar: Review crop nutrition in your paddocks (Dec. 2015)
- » Research spotlight: Fertiliser recommendations and soil tests
- » Nitrogen use efficiency training on-line
- » Zinc deficiency shows up in the cold
- » Data gold from your test strip at harvest
- » Reducing nitrous oxide emissions from dryland grains soil
- » Grain analysis for nutrient strategy
- » Understanding and managing multiple nutrient deficiency.



Figure 1. The eXtensionAUS homepage highlighting the location of the eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition site.

From February 2015 to February 2016 there have been 1,559 views of eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition YouTube videos. This totalled 3,348 minutes with an average viewing duration of 2:08 minutes. These videos provide a quick summary by the expert of the key points of a topic. The viewer can then choose to follow up if they want more detail.

A YouTube highlight was the 90 views of the Better Fertiliser Decisions for Cropping (BFDCII) webinar as at January 2016. The number of followers of @AuCropNutrition on Twitter is currently 1,494.

The eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition network is also closely linked to the More Profit from Crop Nutrition (MPCNII), and the Making Better Fertiliser Decisions for Cropping Systems in Australia (BFDCII) programs. These programs support current crop nutrition research. BFDCII provides access to the best verified soil test crop calibrations on nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulfur by location in Australia. Hence eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition helps make this information accessible as it becomes available.

## **Summary**

The eXtensionAUS Crop Nutrition online learning network connects experts and practitioners in crop nutrition. You can find the latest scientifically verified crop nutrition information through its website, Twitter feed and YouTube videos.

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