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# Mengel, K. and Kirkby, E. A. Principles of plant nutrition FREE

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*Annals of Botany*, Volume 93, Issue 4, 1 April 2004, Pages 479–480,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mch063>

**Published:** 01 April 2004

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**Principles of plant nutrition. 5th edn.** Mengel K, Kirkby EA. 2001. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers. £220 (hardback). 849 pp.

That this text book is now in its fifth edition clearly shows the strength of its content and presentation, and its relevance to the scientific community, which should include all those interested in plants and their growth. There are 20 chapters. The first is an overview of definitions and processes which are considered in much greater depth later. Then follow substantial chapters on 'The Soil as a Plant Nutrient Medium', 'Nutrient Uptake and Assimilation', 'Plant Water Relationships' and 'Plant Growth' and 'Crop Production'. These are the basic stuff of any such text and a number of books orientated to soil and plant processes cover them. They are well presented, clear and in considerable detail. The sixth chapter deals with fertilizer application and so is more practical, but...

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