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Collana	Production practices and quality assessment of food crops ; ; v.2
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Nota di contenuto	Environmental and Biological Monitoring of Exposure to Pesticides in Occupationally Exposed Subjects -- Crop Quality Under Adverse Conditions: Importance of Determining the Nutritional Status -- Phosphorus Management in French Bean (<i>Phaseolus Vulgaris</i> L.) -- Nutrition and Calcium Fertilization of Apple Trees -- Diagnosis, Prediction and Control of Boron Deficiency in Olive Trees -- Boron-Calcium Relationship in Biological Nitrogen Fixation under Physiological and Salt-Stressing Conditions -- Lime-Induced Iron Chlorosis in Fruit Trees -- Si in Horticultural Industry -- Biological Monitoring of Exposure to Pesticides in the General Population (Non Occupationally Exposed to Pesticides).
Sommario/riassunto	Plants require nutrients in order to grow, develop and complete their life cycle. Mineral fertilizers, and hence the fertilizer industry, constitute one of the most important keys to the world food supplies. There is growing concern about the safety and quality of food. Carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, which, together with nitrogen, form the structural matter in plants, are freely available from air and water. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, on the other hand, may not be present in quantities or forms sufficient to support plant growth. In this case, the absence of these nutrients constitutes a limiting factor. The supply of nutrients to the plants should be balanced in order to maximise the efficiency of the individual nutrients so that these meet

the needs of the particular crop and soil type. For example, it should be noted that EU-wide regulations are not designed to govern the specific details of mineral fertilizer use. Although plants receive a natural supply of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium from organic matter and soil minerals, this is not usually sufficient to satisfy the demands of crop plants. The supply of nutrients must therefore be supplemented with fertilizers, both to meet the requirements of crops during periods of plant growth and to replenish soil reserves after the crop has been harvested. Pesticides are important in modern farming and will remain indispensable for the foreseeable future.
