

SULPHUR AS A LIMITING FACTOR TO ATTAINING HIGH RICE YIELDS IN SRI LANKA

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The effect of three levels of sulphur on the growth of rice variety BG 94-1 was studied under greenhouse conditions with soils collected from Amparai, Gampaha, Kandy, Mannar and Polonnaruwa districts. The soils had pH ranging from 4.3 to 6.8, and available sulphate from 1.5 to 14.75 ppm S.

Plants growing on soils from Amparai, Gampaha and Kandy showed an increase in height, tiller number and dry matter production with addition of sulphur ; whereas those on Mannar and Polonnaruwa soils were unaffected. The control treatments for Amparai and Gampaha gave rise to pale green to yellow leaf colouration.

The possibility exists that the non-inclusion of sulphur in the fertilizer ration may prevent the realisation of full yield potentials of the new improved rice varieties in some regions of Sri Lanka.