

## Some Preferred Spellings and Usage

Following is a list of words and expressions that are often encountered in materials produced by IPNI or published in *Better Crops with Plant Food* and related publications. While some of these may also be correct or acceptable in other forms, we have indicated the usage now preferred by IPNI. Usage of the language changes with time and location, but this is an effort to maintain a consistent system for IPNI-related materials.

adviser (instead of advisor)	Midwest
agribusiness (one word)	nonexistent, nonfarm, nonirrigated (and most other non words)
bermudagrass (one word, not capitalized)	no-till
buildup (noun or adjective)	off-farm
build up (verb)	on-farm
Canadian Prairies (with capital letters)	policymakers (not policy-makers)
co-op (not coop)	postemergence
co-sponsor (not cosponsor)	preplant
Corn Belt	preventive
Cotton Belt	program (preferred over programme)
cornstalk	rootworm
cost-effective	runoff (noun)
determinate	run-off (verb)
doublecrop (noun or adjective)	seed-placed (fertilizer)
double crop (verb)	seed row
drought	setup (noun)
dryer (noun)	set up (verb)
drier (adjective)	sidedress (noun)
farmland	side-dress (verb)
Great Plains	site-specific
groundwater (one word)	subsoil
high-yield (adjective)	substandard (and most other sub words)
high yield	sulfur (sulphur is still preferred by some and can be used in proper names and where standard)
inoculate (not innoculate)	take-all (disease)
in-row	topdress (noun)
interpretive	top-dress (verb)
johnsongrass (one word, not capitalized)	topsoil
landowner (one word)	trouble-free
long-term (noun or adjective)	twofold, threefold, etc
long term (verb)	USA (as abbreviation for United States of America, USA is preferred instead of U.S., US, or U.S.A.)
microorganism (not micro-organism)	
mid-season	

## Some General Guidelines on Style for Abbreviations in *Better Crops with Plant Food*

In many *Better Crops* articles, the terms most commonly used in abbreviated form may be listed in a footnote box on the first page. For example, abbreviations for nutrients such as nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) are familiar to most readers and do not need to be spelled out in the article (except at the beginning of sentences or where otherwise necessary).

Use abbreviations of units when numbers are included, such as *100 bu/A*. Spell out when used without numbers, such as: *How many bushels per acre did he harvest?*

bushels per acre	=	bu/A
tons per acre	=	tons/A
pounds per acre	=	lb/A
kilocalorie	=	kcal
dollars per acre	=	\$/A
dollars per bushel	=	\$/bu
versus	=	vs.
parts per million	=	ppm
doctor of philosophy	=	Ph.D. (no space)
bachelor of science	=	B.S. or B.Sc.
best management practice	=	BMP
inches	=	in.
feet	=	ft.

State and province names within sentences should **not** be abbreviated in BC articles. *Example: These crop conditions have been observed in Manitoba and Montana.*

Also, terms such as county, city, village, and district should not be abbreviated.

Do not spell out “percent” when used in text with specific values. Instead use the symbol (%) in text as well as in graphs and tables. *Example: Is the moisture content measured in percent? The moisture content is 15%.*

When referring to forms of essential nutrients taken up by plants from the soil solution, the terms should be spelled out clearly the first time they appear in text, followed by the appropriate chemical notation.

<b>Nutrient</b>	<b>Chemical form taken up by the plant</b>
Nitrogen (N)	nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ); ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ )
Phosphorus (P)	orthophosphate ( $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ); $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$
Potassium (K)	$\text{K}^+$
Calcium (Ca)	$\text{Ca}^{2+}$
Magnesium (Mg)	$\text{Mg}^{2+}$
Sulfur (S)	sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ )
Boron (B)	$\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$ ; $\text{B}_4\text{O}_7^{2-}$ ; $\text{H}_2\text{BO}_3$ ; $\text{HBO}_3^{2-}$ ; $\text{BO}_3^{3-}$
Chloride (Cl)	$\text{Cl}^-$
Copper (Cu)	cupric ( $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ )
Iron (Fe)	ferrous ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ); ferric ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ )
Manganese (Mn)	$\text{Mn}^{2+}$
Molybdenum (Mo)	molybdate ( $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$ )
Nickel (Ni)	$\text{Ni}^{2+}$
Zinc (Zn)	$\text{Zn}^{2+}$