



MARCH 19, 2014

Dear Joe,

March is National Nutrition Month, a perfect time to think about the importance of growing the crops that keep Americans healthy. Did you know that **minerals are vital to crop production** and may be the solution to concerns that by 2050 global crop production will be unable to keep up with the rising population? That's because certain minerals, such as boron, gypsum, phosphate and zinc, are used in products designed to increase crop yield.

For example, phosphate is a critical ingredient of fertilizer and **there is no substitute for it**. On average, **95 percent of the phosphate produced in the U.S. each year is used in fertilizers and animal feed supplements**, making the mineral crucial to our food supply. Similarly, gypsum is used to improve soil workability, receptivity to moisture and overall plant growth.

DID YOU KNOW?

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Technology Fuels Demand for Graphite



Likewise, boron and zinc, minerals essential to healthy, growth-nurturing soil, play an important role in improving both crop health and yield. Both are **essential elements for all plants**, but boron and zinc deficiency in soil is widespread. These deficiencies affect nearly all major crops, so boron and zinc applications are necessary to maximize crop production and quality.

From the food we eat to the technology on which we rely, minerals play an important role in supporting our lives. I invite you to learn more about the integral role minerals play in our day-to-day lives by visiting the [Minerals Make Life blog](#).

Best regards,

Hal Quinn



Rising demand for graphite used to power batteries in electric vehicles has spurred one of the largest waves of mining activity in years. [Read more on our Minerals Make Life blog.](#)



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