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Silicon improves performance of agrochemicals

Silicon can improve the performance of agrochemicals. The increasing knowledge of organosilicon chemistry also offers prospects for the development of new fertilisers. *Beneficial nutrients news* has summarised a lot of silicon research concerning fungicides and other pharmaceuticals.

Silicon has unique properties. The element possesses some crucial differences to the very similar carbon atom. Chemists utilise these differences in order to develop new, more effective active ingredients and pharmacists are increasingly interested in the possibilities of silicon in order to develop medicines with a better performance. The presence of a silicon atom also explains a part of the effectiveness of the fungicides flusilazole and simeconazole. In the May issue of *Beneficial nutrients news* a lot of silicon research concerning agrochemicals and other pharmaceuticals has been summarised.

Beneficial nutrients news also discloses the development of a new, still to be patented form of silicon for human use. The knowledge that has been acquired with this research is useful to develop new, highly bioavailable silicon fertilisers.

All over the world silicon is used on a large scale in rice and sugarcane. Scientists also have found advantages of silicon in wheat, barley, maize (corn), bamboo and glasshouse crops like cucumber and rose. Silicon also can extend the vase life of some cut flowers and increase the growth of pot plants and woody ornamentals.

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