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Nurserymen miss benefits of silicon

Silicon protects nursery crops against stress. This nutrient enhances the plant's resistance to pathogens, drought stress and salinity. Nurserymen however miss these benefits, the scientific newsletter *Beneficial nutrients news* reports.

English oak blocks powdery mildew infection by silicon accumulation. At sites where this fungus tries to penetrate the leaf, the deciduous tree forms silicate 'incrusts'. Although the pathogen is often too quick for English oak, the powdery mildew infection would be more heavily without silicon. The same phenomenon has been observed in leaves of other nursery plants. Only a handful of researchers know this defence response of English oak. The beneficial effects of silicon on *Hedera* and *Rosa* cuttings and the protection against drought stress and salinity too are as good as unknown. Many research results are only reported to the scientific public, so it appears from a study conducted by *Beneficial nutrients news* (see www.silicon-nutrition.info). According to this scientific newsletter, nurserymen miss the possible benefits of silicon. With the special *Nurserymen miss benefits of silicon*, the newsletter opens up the information on silicon in nursery crops.

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