

# HOW DO PLANTS GROW?

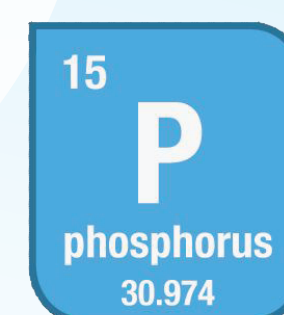
Farmers work hard to grow healthy crops to feed the world. They must replace the soil nutrients to ensure the new plants have proper food to grow healthy, and strong.

This is done by using the 4R's:

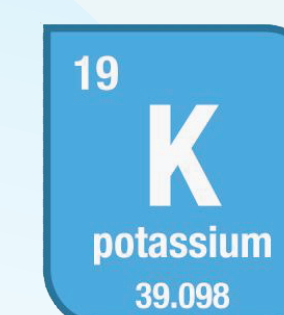
Plants, like all living things, absorb nutrients from the soil as they grow. The nutrients plants consume in the largest amounts include:



Nitrogen (N)  
comes from the air



Phosphorus (P)  
comes from ancient sea life



Potassium (K)  
comes from evaporated oceans

Potassium (K) protects plants from disease and helps provide stem strength.

Potassium (K) keeps plants from wilting.

Nitrogen (N) makes plants strong.

Phosphorus (P) helps plants catch energy from the sun.

Healthy roots need phosphorus (P).

