

Whole Cycle Tuesday

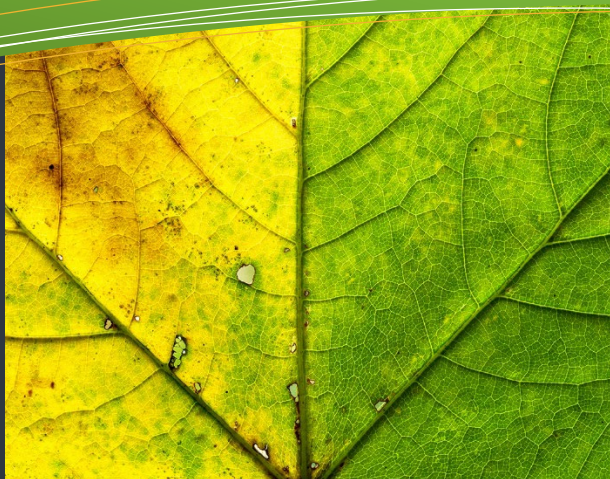
Think About It

As landscape and agronomic professionals know; green, vibrant foliage is the hallmark of a healthy outdoor space.

But have you ever stopped to consider why leaves are green—and what it tells us about plant health?

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"The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share." — Lady Bird Johnson

Why Are Leaves Green? The Science Behind Healthy Landscapes

Chlorophyll

The green pigment found in plant cells. Chlorophyll plays a central role in photosynthesis—the process that allows plants to convert sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide into energy. This energy powers growth, root development, flowering, and more. Chlorophyll absorbs red and blue wavelengths of light and reflects green, which is why we see that rich, familiar hue.

But there's more to the story. The soil beneath our feet is just as important as the sunlight above. Chlorophyll production relies heavily on key soil nutrients, particularly:

- **Nitrogen** – a critical building block of chlorophyll. Low nitrogen = pale, yellowing leaves.
- **Magnesium** – found at the core of the chlorophyll molecule, essential for its structure.
- **Iron** – helps in the synthesis of chlorophyll and supports green leaf development.

Feed your plants!

When any of these nutrients are lacking, plants can't produce chlorophyll efficiently. The result? Faded color, stunted growth, and less resilience to stress and pests.

For teams creating outdoor spaces and clients alike, this underscores a simple truth: green leaves start with healthy soil. Proper soil testing, thoughtful fertilization, and organic matter enrichment aren't just best practices—they're essential steps to creating and maintaining lush, thriving landscapes.

As we move through the growing season, keep an eye on color—it's often the first clue to what's happening underground.

Healthy soil = strong roots = greener landscapes.

Let's keep growing smart.

