



## ***Make Your Foliars Alive!***

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As farmers and agronomists, we can spend a lot of time testing and trialing to create the perfect foliar recipe; trying to attain just the right balance of each needed nutrient and provide it at the most opportune time. That is a worthwhile effort and can pay off with increased yields and top-notch quality.

**But no foliar recipe is complete until you make it alive!** That's right; a great foliar is not just nutrients, but also live microbes along with food sources to feed the microbes.

Why are live microbes critical to foliar success? Let's review how beneficial biology functions on the plant surface. The plant habitat colonized by the microbes is termed the phyllosphere. These above-ground plant surfaces are colonized by a variety of bacteria, yeasts, and fungi. Bacteria are easily the most populous inhabitant.

Carbon sources and nutrients on the leaves feed these microbes. The sources of food come from exudates (mainly sugars and carbohydrates) within the stem and leaves. This relationship is mutually beneficial, just like soil microbes interact with roots and their excretions. By applying a combination of nutrients, microbes, and food sources in a balanced foliar program, you can create the ideal environment in the phyllosphere for microbes to thrive and do their job helping your crop.

**SP-1™ is the microbial product of choice to include in any foliar.** By ramping up a diversity of bacteria on the plant's surface, we often see increased nutrient cycling into the plant. This means a faster response to the applied nutrients as well as higher efficiency in uptake with less left behind or wasted. In

other words, a few dollars invested in microbes can increase the odds that the rest of our investment in nutrient products, labor, and equipment pays off!

A question that is often asked is "If I'm doing multiple foliar, do I need to include **SP-1™** every time?"

Our answer is "Yes, as often as possible."

The reality for organisms on a plant leaf or stem is that they live in a very volatile environment. Extremes of temperature and moisture are constantly occurring which can affect the microbial population with rapid swings on a weekly basis. An intentional foliar program to re-inoculate with microbes several times over the growing season can extend beneficial microbial activity by smoothing out these peaks and valleys.

*To discuss your customized foliar program, complete with **SP-1™**, contact your AgriEnergy Resources representative today. We'll help you **make your foliar alive!***