

Phosphorus: How is it stored and transported?

Phosphorus is the second most abundant element in the earth's crust. It is found in many rocks, but only a small amount is available to plants. The most common source of phosphorus is phosphate rock. This rock is mined and processed into phosphate fertilizers. These fertilizers are used to grow crops and to produce animal feed. Phosphorus is also found in many minerals and is an essential element for all living organisms.

Phosphorus is stored in the soil as phosphate ions (PO_4^{3-}). These ions are taken up by plants and used for energy storage. Some plants, like legumes, can store phosphorus in their roots. This allows them to use it when they are not growing.

Phosphorus is also stored in the soil as organic phosphorus. This is phosphorus that is part of the bodies of dead plants and animals. This phosphorus is released back into the soil when these bodies decompose.

How is phosphorus stored in the soil?



1. What is phosphorus?

2. How is phosphorus stored in the soil?

3. How is phosphorus transported?

It is _____ in the soil.

4. How is phosphorus used by plants?
