Zinc (Zn) deficiency is an abiotic nutritional disorder that affects many plants. Soil zinc is taken up by the plant as a cation, Zn\(^{2+}\).

**Symptoms**
Youngest leaves are narrow, strap-like, erect, and often bunched together, forming a rosette at the apex of the stem. Leaf blades are yellowed, with margins that are a distinct pale yellow. Severely affected leaves are stunted and distorted with inward-curving margins. Apical growth and branch extension may slow on affected plants, and severely affected plants may not put on much new growth at all.

**Management**
Zinc deficiency can be corrected by amending the soil. Zinc sulfate (22–26% Zn) is a quickly available source, and zinc oxide (70–80% Zn) is slowly available. Poultry and swine manure are good organic sources of zinc.
Zinc chelate (9–14% Zn) can be applied to the foliage and is rapidly available to the plant.

Phosphorus build-up in the soil from excessive phosphate fertilizer applications can induce zinc deficiency.