By Mir M Seyedbagheri

Science has always confirmed that a successful lawn and garden begins with healthy soil. The Extension office conducts regular soil testing in areas all over the county as well as in neighboring counties. It is important to note that 90% of horticulture and agriculture failure is linked to poor soil health. Soil is a living system, full of micro-organisms that are the keys to good quality soil. Other important factors for healthy soil are good aeration, drainage and a balance of all the essential elements. The macro elements are Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. Secondary elements are Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphur. And finally there are micro elements; Iron, Zinc, Boron, Copper, Manganese and Molybdenum.

During the spring and summer, 30% of the tree and plant specimens brought to the office are showing from severe to moderate zinc and iron deficiencies. Soil type, nutritional deficiencies and moisture and temperature extremes can restrict or totally block an adequate supply of micronutrients to your plants.

In Emore and Owyhee counties our soil pH varies from 7.2 to 8.5, which is an alkali calcareous soil. An