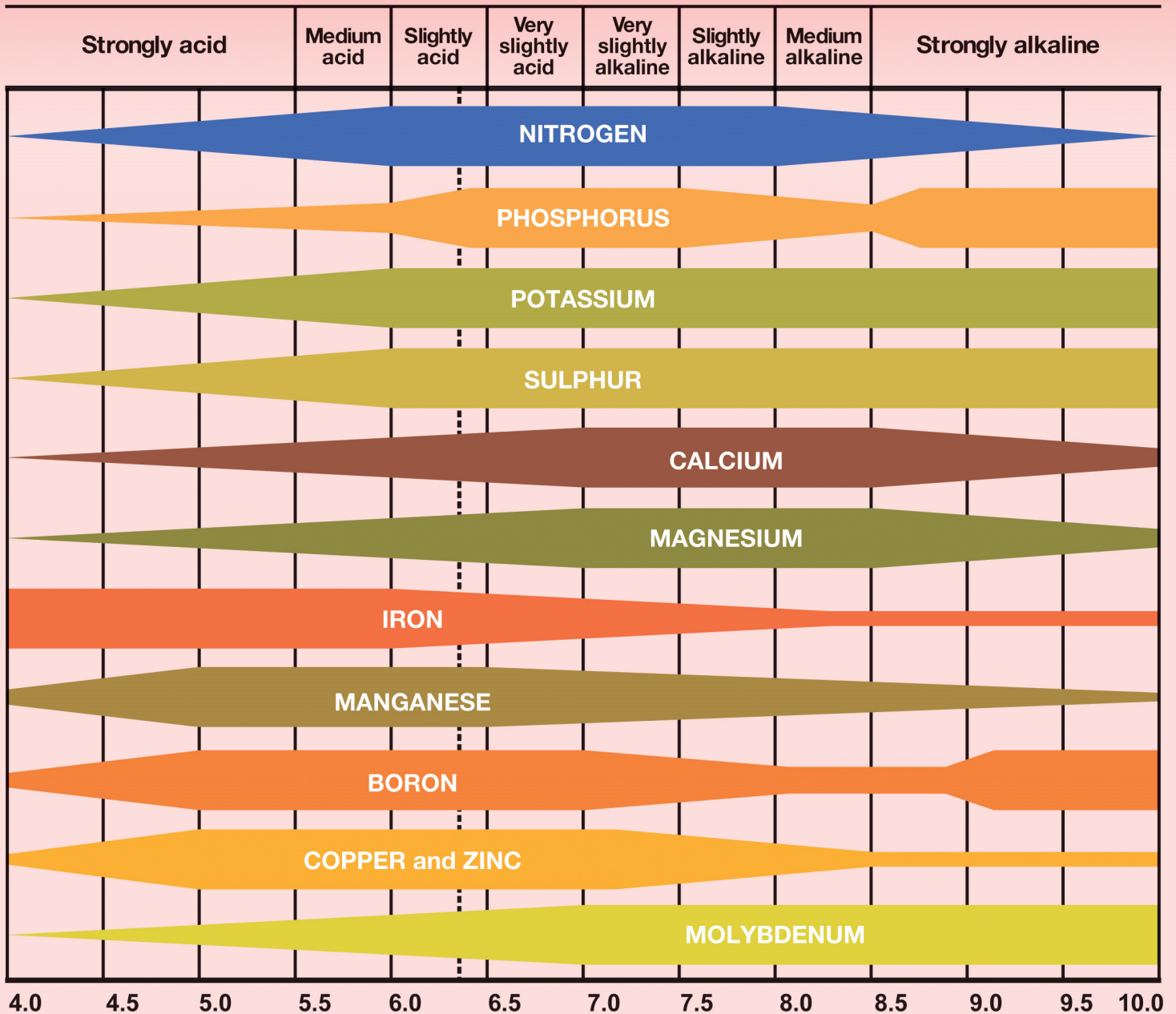


## HOW NUTRIENT pH AFFECTS AVAILABILITY OF PLANT NUTRIENTS

The width of the bands indicates the relative availability of each plant food element at various pH levels.



### Potential Hydrogen or pH

pH is a major factor in the ability of the plant to absorb all the necessary macro and micro elements needed for sugar production. pH is the term used in measuring the acidic, (lower level), or alkalinity, (upper level) of the nutrient solution. pH levels in your town water should be between 6 to 7. The ideal level for growing crops in hydroponics is 6.3 pH. At this level the plant has access to all 24 mineral salts needed for strong healthy growth. The pH is read on a scale of 0 to 14. In a soil or organic situation the pH can vary dramatically within just a few square centimeters, and can be difficult to bring back into balance, however in hydroponics we use inert materials as the support structure of the plant so it is quite simple to adjust the pH at any given time.