

The suitability of different exchange protocols for soil nutrient analysis by means of ion chromatography was compared. In contrast to photometric methods, ion chromatography provides the possibility to quantify several ions out of the same exchange solution in one analytic step. A new developed lithium acetate exchange protocol provided the best results as none of the main nutrient ions is precipitated and neither lithium nor acetate are of interest in general surveys and the exchange characteristics are expected to be similar to those of plant ion exchange.