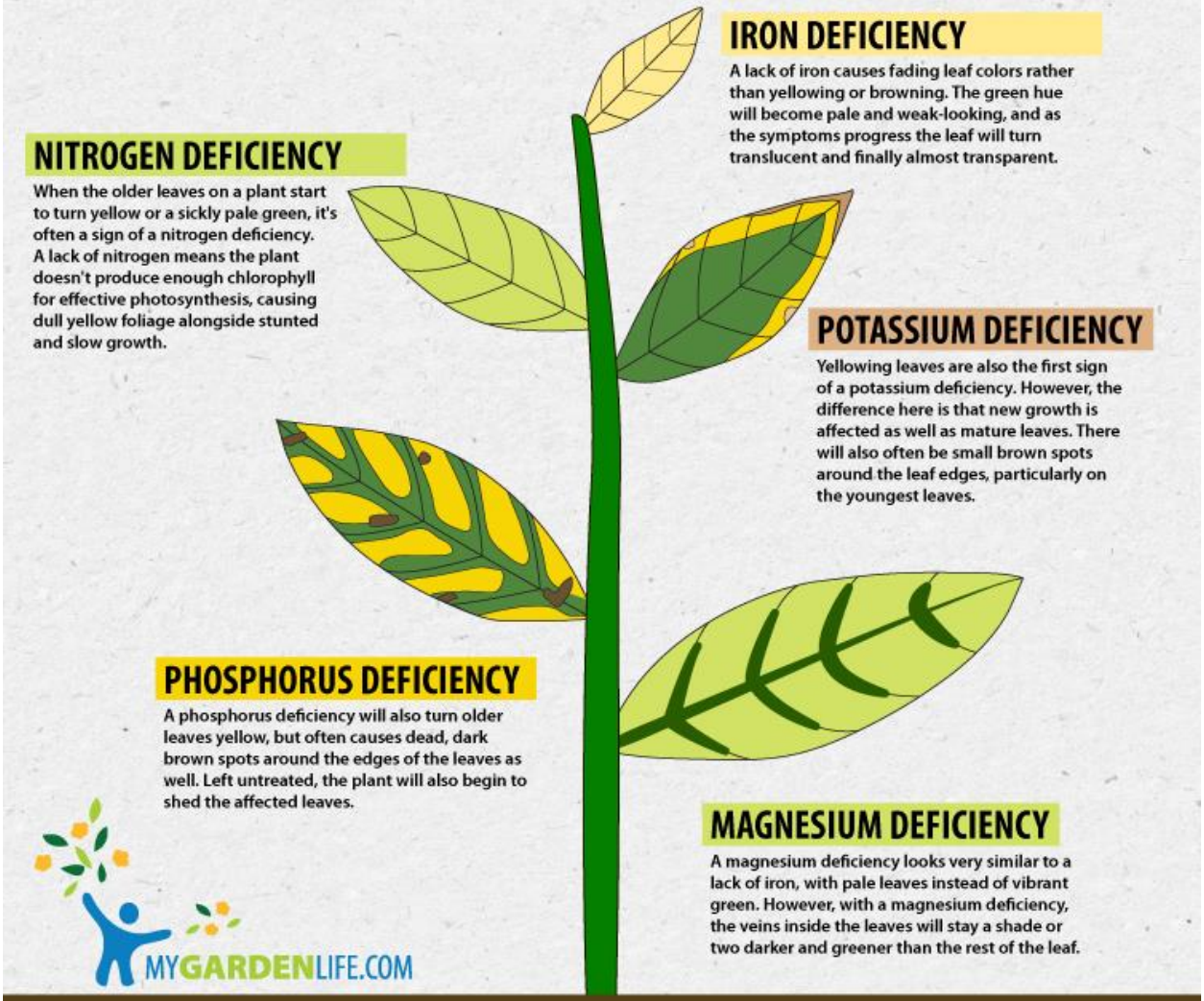
NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES IN PLANTS



IRON DEFICIENCY

A lack of iron causes fading leaf colors rather than yellowing or browning. The green hue will become pale and weak-looking, and as the symptoms progress the leaf will turn translucent and finally almost transparent.

NITROGEN DEFICIENCY

When the older leaves on a plant start to turn yellow or a sickly pale green, it's often a sign of a nitrogen deficiency. A lack of nitrogen means the plant doesn't produce enough chlorophyll for effective photosynthesis, causing dull yellow foliage alongside stunted and slow growth.

POTASSIUM DEFICIENCY

Yellowing leaves are also the first sign of a potassium deficiency. However, the difference here is that new growth is affected as well as mature leaves. There will also often be small brown spots around the leaf edges, particularly on the youngest leaves.

PHOSPHORUS DEFICIENCY

A phosphorus deficiency will also turn older leaves yellow, but often causes dead, dark brown spots around the edges of the leaves as well. Left untreated, the plant will also begin to shed the affected leaves.

MAGNESIUM DEFICIENCY

A magnesium deficiency looks very similar to a lack of iron, with pale leaves instead of vibrant green. However, with a magnesium deficiency, the veins inside the leaves will stay a shade or two darker and greener than the rest of the leaf.

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