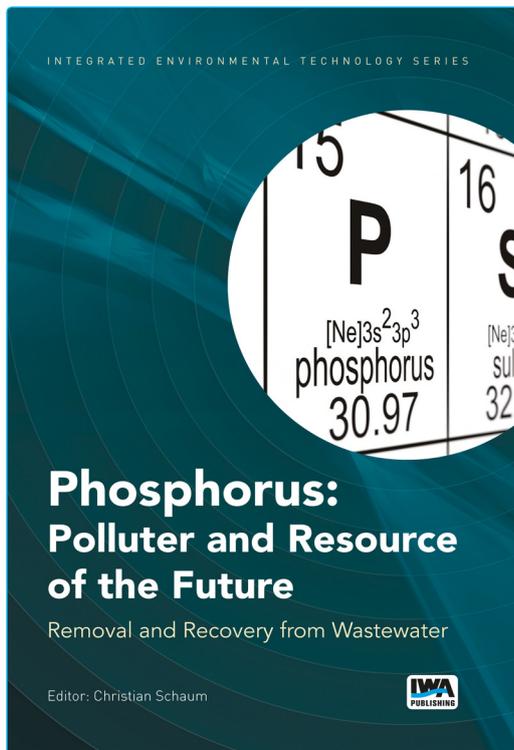


Phosphorus: Polluter and Resource of the Future

Removal and Recovery from Wastewater

Christian Schaum



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Phosphorus has always been both a curse and a blessing. On one hand, it is essential for all life forms and cannot be replaced by anything. On the other hand, wastewater treatment aims to minimize phosphorus concentrations in wastewater in order to minimize its discharge into rivers and lakes, where eutrophication caused by high phosphorus concentrations would lead to excessive plant growth. Phosphorus is extracted from rock phosphate deposits, which are finite and non-renewable. And as the issue of resource conservation is the focus of attention worldwide, phosphorus must be used sustainably. This includes recycling of secondary phosphates, efficient extraction and treatment of raw phosphate as well as its efficient use.

The book starts from the peculiarity of the element phosphorus in Part I, "Phosphorus a special element?", Part II shows the possibilities and limitations of the elimination of phosphorus during the wastewater treatment. Current developments in phosphorus recovery are presented in Part III, "Phosphorus Recovery - Technology", where also a large number of technology developments are presented in the context of case studies. Part IV, "Assessment", shows impulses for the future. The book concludes with an "Outlook" in Part V.

Phosphorus: Polluter and Resource of the Future discusses all aspects of both phosphorus elimination and recovery and summarizes the latest state of phosphorus recovery technologies.

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