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Silicon uptake and isotope fractionation dynamics by crop species

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Figures

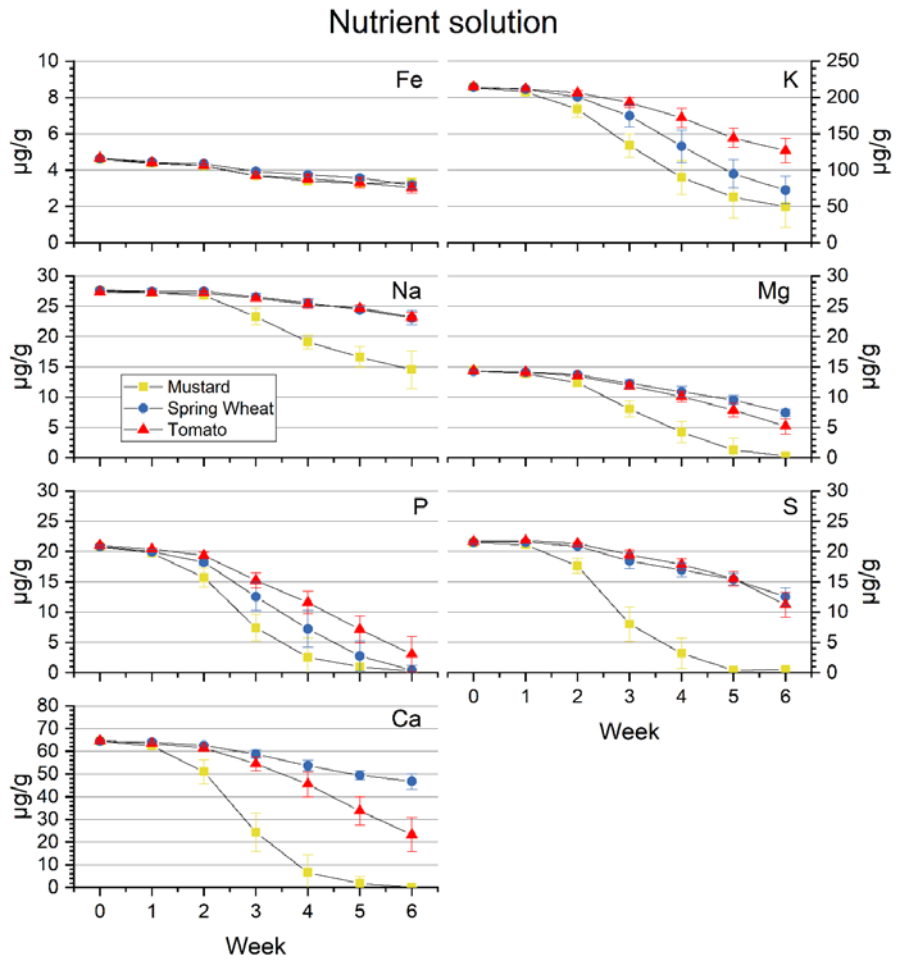

Figure S 1: Temporal evolution of nutrient concentrations during the hydroponic growth of the different plant species. Concentration (Fe, K, Mg, Ca, P, S, Na in µg·g^{-1}) are based on the mean of the three replicated containers, uncertainty shown is 1 standard deviation of those replicated containers.

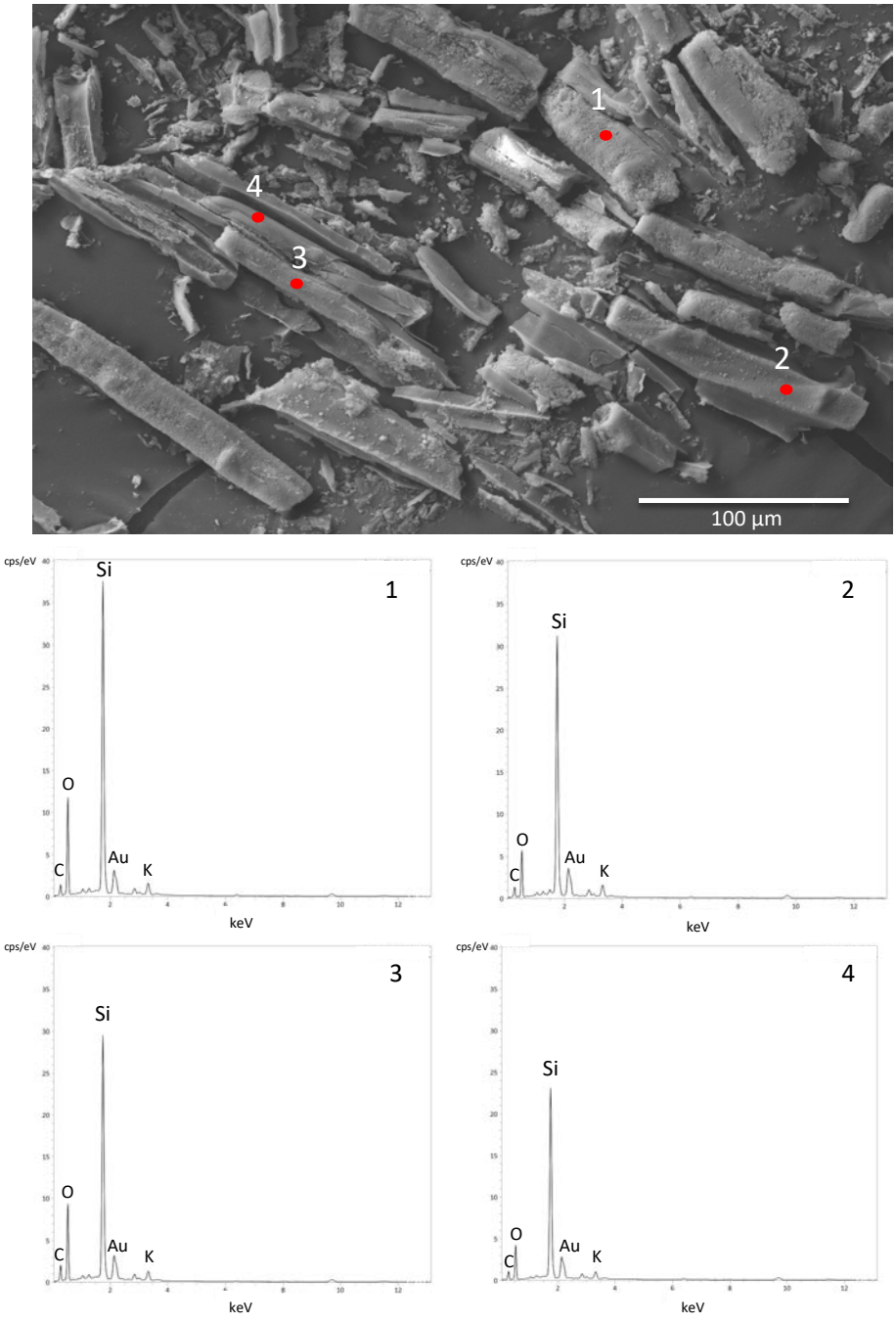

Figure S 2: Representative SEM-EDX micrograph of Si precipitates (phytoliths) in mustard roots extracted from dried root samples. See SEM-EDX analysis of mustard root phytoliths for detailed extraction and measurement methods.

Tables

	Concentration measurements	**Si isotope ratio measurements**
Instrument	Varian 720ES ICP-OES	ThermoFisher Neptune Plus
Spraychamber	cyclonic, glass	APEX
Nebuliser	concentric, glass	concentric, PFA
Sample uptake rate	ca. 2 ml/min (pumped:15 rpm)	160 µL/min
Cones	standard cone	N-sampler / H-skimmer
Plasma RF power	1.0 kW	1200 W
Ar cool gas	15 L/min	15 L/min
Ar aux gas	1.5 L/min	0.8 L/min
Ar nebuliser pressure /flow rate[a]	280 -320 kPa	1.0 L/min
Analysis integration time	10 s	4 s
Integration replicates per analysis	3	30
Rinse time between samples	60 s (pumped at 50 rpm), 0.3 M HNO_3	160 s, 0.1 M HCl
Analytes (wavelengths in nm for ICP-OES or isotopes for MC-ICP-MS)	Ca 422.673, Fe 238.204, K 769.897, Mg 280.270, Na 588.995, Si 288.158, S 181.972, P 213.618	^{24}Mg, ^{25}Mg, ^{26}Mg ^{28}Si, ^{29}Si, ^{30}Si medium mass resolution mode: Δm/m (5%/95% intensity limits): >5000
[a]Optimised during each analytical session		

Table S1: Instrument settings for concentration and silicon isotope ratio measurements.

ERM-CD281				BHVO-2			
$\delta^{29}Si/^{28}Si$	2 s	$\delta^{30}Si/^{28}Si$	2 s	$\delta^{29}Si/^{28}Si$	2 s	$\delta^{30}Si/^{28}Si$	2 s
-0.12	0.04	-0.25	0.05	-0.14	0.06	-0.26	0.07
-0.18	0.05	-0.33	0.06	-0.13	0.04	-0.24	0.07
-0.16	0.04	-0.26	0.05	-0.18	0.04	-0.30	0.06
-0.19	0.05	-0.24	0.07	-0.18	0.04	-0.32	0.06
-0.15	0.05	-0.27	0.05	-0.22	0.05	-0.35	0.07
-0.19	0.05	-0.28	0.07	-0.15	0.05	-0.29	0.06
-0.15	0.06	-0.18	0.07	-0.27	0.14	-0.40	0.15
-0.25	0.04	-0.45	0.05	-0.07	0.08	-0.25	0.09
-0.26	0.04	-0.47	0.05	-0.17	0.05	-0.24	0.07
-0.28	0.04	-0.44	0.07	-0.11	0.05	-0.27	0.07
-0.27	0.05	-0.46	0.07	-0.16	0.05	-0.26	0.07
-0.31	0.04	-0.42	0.07	-0.11	0.08	-0.23	0.09
-0.25	0.04	-0.38	0.07	-0.14	0.06	-0.27	0.10
				-0.14	0.04	-0.30	0.06
				-0.17	0.04	-0.29	0.06
				-0.17	0.04	-0.29	0.06
				-0.18	0.05	-0.32	0.07
				-0.14	0.05	-0.22	0.07
				-0.19	0.04	-0.35	0.06
				-0.18	0.05	-0.31	0.07
				-0.15	0.05	-0.29	0.06
				-0.13	0.05	-0.29	0.06
				-0.16	0.06	-0.26	0.07
				-0.22	0.05	-0.32	0.07
				-0.21	0.05	-0.21	0.07
				-0.16	0.04	-0.29	0.05
				-0.16	0.04	-0.33	0.05
				-0.20	0.04	-0.31	0.06
				-0.13	0.06	-0.25	0.09
				-0.16	0.05	-0.35	0.06
				-0.17	0.04	-0.24	0.07
				-0.18	0.05	-0.32	0.07
				-0.18	0.05	-0.30	0.07
				-0.17	0.05	-0.36	0.07
				-0.13	0.04	-0.25	0.05
				-0.12	0.04	-0.29	0.04
				-0.15	0.06	-0.29	0.06
				-0.09	0.04	-0.26	0.07
				-0.16	0.04	-0.27	0.05
				-0.15	0.04	-0.23	0.06

Table S2: Individually repeated analysis of BHVO-2 and ERM-CD281 for their silicon isotope composition.

		Ca	Fe	K	Mg	P	S	Si	$\delta^{30}Si$	2 SD
		µg/g	µg/g	µg/g	µg/g	µg/g	µg/g	µg/g	‰	
Mustard	**Pot 1**	64.2	4.6	210.8	14.3	20.4	21.2	49.3	-0.23	0.12
	Pot 4	64.3	4.6	214.8	14.3	20.9	21.6	49.8	-0.19	0.06
	Pot 7	65.0	4.7	216.1	14.4	21.2	21.6	49.5	-0.15	0.06
Spring Wheat	**Pot 2**	64.3	4.6	213.2	14.3	20.7	21.3	49.9	-0.18	0.03
	Pot 5	64.5	4.7	214.0	14.3	20.8	21.6	49.4	-0.18	0.13
	Pot 8	64.8	4.6	215.5	14.2	21.0	21.7	49.2	-0.24	0.07
Tomato	**Pot 3**	64.9	4.7	213.3	14.4	20.9	21.7	49.4	-0.20	0.08
	Pot 6	64.5	4.7	215.4	14.4	21.1	21.6	49.5	-0.25	0.10
	Pot 9	64.7	4.7	214.7	14.2	21.1	21.7	49.4	-0.23	0.02
Average									-0.21	0.07

Table S 3: Starting composition (major element concentration (in µg g^{-1}) and silicon isotopic composition) of the nutrient solutions for the individual pots.

The Table S4 is on the following pages.

Table S4: Dry weight, major element concentration (in mg·g^{-1}) and Si isotope composition (in ‰) of the plants separated into shoot and root.

The Table S5 is on the following pages.

Table S5: Composition (major element concentration (in µg g^{-1}) and silicon isotopic composition) of the weekly sampled nutrient solutions for the individual pots. See Table S3 for the starting composition (week 0).

			dry mass	Ca	Fe	K	Mg	P	S	Si	δ^{30}Si			δ^{30}Si		
Mustard		Plant ID	[g]	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	‰ NBS28	2 s / *95 % CI		‰ nutrient solution	2 s / *95 % CI	
Pot 1	Roots	19-5-1R-S1	0.96	3.9	1.0	23.3	2.6	5.9	4.0	13.2	-0.83	0.17		-0.62	0.17	
		19-5-1R-S2	1.48	2.2	0.5	29.6	1.9	4.6	3.3	11.2	-1.15	0.05		-0.94	0.05	
		19-5-1R-S3	0.58	2.3	0.5	27.7	1.2	4.5	3.3	11.3	-0.92	0.05		-0.72	0.05	
		19-5-1R-S4	0.05	4.2	0.9	15.2	0.9	3.2	2.2	5.0	-0.73	0.12		-0.53	0.12	
	Shoot	19-5-1S-S1	4.12	13.5	0.10	51.4	3.7	4.3	4.6	0.90	-0.27	0.08		-0.06	0.08	
		19-5-1S-S2	12.12	18.7	0.07	46.0	3.7	5.1	3.7	1.12	-0.38	0.04		-0.18	0.04	
		19-5-1S-S3	4.43	20.5	0.06	44.9	3.0	5.0	3.6	0.90	-0.50	0.08		-0.29	0.08	
		19-5-1S-S4	0.63	18.4	0.15	53.1	3.0	8.1	7.4	0.89	-0.38	0.08		-0.17	0.08	
Pot 4	Roots	19-5-4R-S1	0.71	3.3	0.67	15.2	1.8	3.2	3.7	7.23	-0.59	0.04		-0.39	0.04	
		19-5-4R-S2	0.62	2.7	0.37	15.5	1.6	4.4	2.8	4.75	-1.26	0.08		-1.06	0.08	
		19-5-4R-S3	0.61	2.6	0.40	17.8	1.8	4.1	1.6	9.00	-1.32	0.07		-1.11	0.07	
		19-5-4R-S4	1.58	2.1	0.38	18.1	1.6	4.1	2.1	8.19	-0.82	0.04		-0.62	0.04	
	Shoot	19-5-4S-S1	5.84	34.1	0.10	50.9	5.1	4.0	4.4	1.68	-0.32	0.11		-0.11	0.11	
		19-5-4S-S2	3.08	12.4	0.12	47.1	3.7	5.7	4.2	0.95	-0.25	0.18		-0.05	0.18	
		19-5-4S-S3	4.83	11.0	0.08	44.4	3.3	4.9	2.2	1.11	-0.33	0.05		-0.12	0.05	
		19-5-4S-S4	10.54	9.0	0.08	47.5	3.0	5.3	2.8	1.04	-0.18	0.08		0.02	0.08	
Pot 7	Roots	19-5-7R-S1	1.98	1.6	0.21	18.5	1.6	3.7	2.3	3.08	-1.19	0.07		-0.99	0.07	
		19-5-7R-S2	0.22	2.7	0.89	24.1	1.2	3.1	3.5	17.95	-0.74	0.07		-0.54	0.07	
		19-5-7R-S3	0.80	2.0	0.16	21.2	0.9	3.1	3.4	3.85	-1.05	0.10		-0.84	0.10	
		19-5-7R-S4	2.15	1.4	0.19	24.8	1.1	3.2	2.8	8.07	-1.07	0.09		-0.86	0.09	
	Shoot	19-5-7S-S1	8.90	6.9	0.08	37.7	2.0	3.1	1.6	0.53	-0.07	0.09		0.13	0.09	
		19-5-7S-S2	0.93	4.6	0.06	44.2	1.9	2.5	1.7	0.52	-0.04	0.10		0.17	0.10	
		19-5-7S-S3	5.30	17.8	0.06	48.4	2.5	4.7	3.2	0.77	-0.38	0.09		-0.18	0.09	
		19-5-7S-S4	14.40	12.7	0.06	52.4	2.3	3.0	1.8	1.25	0.07	0.06		0.28	0.06	
Average	Roots		0.98	2.59	0.51	20.90	1.52	3.92	2.92	8.57	-0.97	0.15	*	-0.77	0.15	*
	Shoot		6.26	14.96	0.08	47.34	3.10	4.63	3.44	0.97	-0.25	0.11	*	-0.05	0.11	*
Sum	Plants		86.88													
* Uncertantiy based on 95 % CI																

Table S4: Dry weight, major element concentration (in mg·g^{-1}) and Si isotope composition (in ‰) of the plants separated into shoot and root.

			dry mass	Ca	Fe	K	Mg	P	S	Si	δ30Si			δ30Si		
Spring Wheat		Plant ID	[g]	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	‰ NBS28	2 s / *95 % CI		‰ nutrient solution	2 s / *95 % CI	
Pot 2	Roots	19-5-2R-W1	0.8	4.6	0.46	62.9	1.1	5.2	1.9	1.31	-0.68	0.14		-0.48	0.14	
		19-5-2R-W2	0.9	3.8	0.37	52.3	1.2	4.2	1.9	1.30	-0.64	0.05		-0.44	0.05	
		19-5-2R-W3	1.0	3.5	0.38	60.2	0.9	5.5	1.9	1.80	-1.42	0.08		-1.21	0.08	
		19-5-2R-W4	0.7	3.9	0.32	56.8	0.9	4.9	1.8	1.29	-0.89	0.12		-0.68	0.12	
	Shoot	19-5-2S-W1	3.7	6.7	0.31	95.1	1.7	7.6	3.6	22.18	-0.21	0.09		-0.01	0.09	
		19-5-2S-W2	3.5	7.4	0.23	56.9	2.0	7.6	2.6	18.59	-0.28	0.10		-0.07	0.10	
		19-5-2S-W3	4.2	4.7	0.30	105.2	1.8	8.0	4.0	15.36	-1.31	0.16		-1.10	0.16	
		19-5-2S-W4	3.5	7.0	0.46	105.6	1.6	9.1	4.3	23.42	-0.40	0.05		-0.19	0.05	
Pot 5	Roots	19-5-5R-W1	0.51	4.9	1.11	54.4	1.9	5.4	1.4	1.10	-1.45	0.13		-1.25	0.13	
		19-5-5R-W2	0.63	5.1	0.71	61.3	1.4	4.6	1.7	1.59	-1.99	0.12		-1.79	0.12	
		19-5-5R-W3	0.47	5.6	0.72	62.6	1.4	4.4	1.6	1.58	-1.64	0.03		-1.44	0.03	
		19-5-5R-W4	0.76	4.0	0.73	62.1	1.3	4.2	1.9	1.31	-1.60	0.06		-1.39	0.06	
	Shoot	19-5-5S-W1	3.31	7.0	0.13	66.2	2.0	8.9	3.0	23.69	0.22	0.03		0.43	0.03	
		19-5-5S-W2	3.58	9.0	0.11	107.2	0.3	9.8	4.4	41.44	0.29	0.09		0.50	0.09	
		19-5-5S-W3	3.14	7.0	0.18	81.8	2.1	8.3	3.2	26.64	-0.04	0.05		0.17	0.05	
		19-5-5S-W4	4.83	6.3	0.13	92.5	1.7	8.5	3.5	21.05	-0.31	0.08		-0.10	0.08	
Pot 8	Roots	19-5-8R-W1	0.62	3.9	0.47	63.1	1.6	8.5	1.5	2.10	-1.00	0.09		-0.79	0.09	
		19-5-8R-W2	0.28	4.3	0.68	57.6	1.7	7.7	1.2	1.30	-1.34	0.13		-1.14	0.13	
		19-5-8R-W3	0.46	2.7	0.50	56.3	1.9	7.7	1.7	11.18	-0.36	0.02		-0.15	0.02	
		19-5-8R-W4	0.74	2.2	0.29	55.5	1.5	8.3	2.0	3.29	-1.99	0.06		-1.78	0.06	
	Shoot	19-5-8S-W1	3.42	7.3	0.15	68.0	1.6	10.1	2.8	23.25	-0.09	0.06		0.12	0.06	
		19-5-8S-W2	1.60	8.1	0.20	79.8	2.8	11.6	2.7	26.05	-0.53	0.10		-0.32	0.10	
		19-5-8S-W3	2.87	6.4	0.13	78.5	2.2	11.2	2.2	24.93	-0.38	0.10		-0.17	0.10	
		19-5-8S-W4	3.47	7.0	0.14	78.2	2.3	11.9	2.8	27.33	-0.21	0.04		-0.01	0.04	
Average	Roots		0.65	3.99	0.57	58.39	1.43	5.94	1.71	2.53	-1.25	0.34	*	-1.04	0.34	*
	Shoot		3.43	7.02	0.20	83.62	1.85	9.54	3.22	24.70	-0.27	0.26	*	-0.06	0.26	*
Sum	Plants		48.92													
* Uncertantiy based on 95 % CI																

Table S4: Dry weight, major element concentration (in $mg \cdot g^{-1}$) and Si isotope composition (in ‰) of the plants separated into shoot and root.

			dry mass	Ca	Fe	K	Mg	P	S	Si	δ30Si			δ30Si		
Tomato		Plant ID	[g]	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	mg/g	‰ NBS28	2 s / *95 % CI		‰ nutrient solution	2 s / *95 % CI	
Pot 3	Roots	19-5-3R-T1	0.03	8.7	1.53	65.4	4.6	6.1	5.7	7.41	-0.60	0.10		-0.39	0.10	
		19-5-3R-T2	1.08	7.3	0.99	81.1	3.8	7.5	2.7	1.77	-0.03	0.04		0.17	0.04	
		19-5-3R-T3	0.40	6.8	1.18	58.5	4.6	7.6	2.6	4.32	-0.46	0.03		-0.25	0.03	
		19-5-3R-T4	0.44	6.8	2.48	72.5	3.4	9.1	2.8	3.80	-0.19	0.01		0.02	0.01	
	Shoot	19-5-3S-T1	0.17	19.5	0.11	79.8	3.2	11.5	2.9	2.45	-0.30	0.09		-0.10	0.09	
		19-5-3S-T2	6.18	24.9	0.13	60.2	3.1	7.9	4.6	1.21	-0.77	0.01		-0.56	0.01	
		19-5-3S-T3	2.13	28.9	0.28	50.7	5.5	10.9	4.8	1.38	-0.42	0.09		-0.21	0.09	
		19-5-3S-T4	3.33	21.5	0.15	70.1	3.9	8.3	4.6	1.23	-0.81	0.06		-0.60	0.06	
Pot 6	Roots	19-5-6R-T1	0.45	6.0	1.53	58.7	4.4	10.0	3.1	1.90	0.07	0.10		0.28	0.10	
		19-5-6R-T2	0.21	8.6	3.13	62.7	5.6	13.1	3.8	4.12	-0.47	0.10		-0.27	0.10	
		19-5-6R-T3	0.45	6.4	2.63	68.7	3.9	12.2	2.3	1.79	0.22	0.10		0.43	0.10	
		19-5-6R-T4	0.69	6.7	1.22	76.4	4.7	10.6	2.8	1.92	-0.15	0.07		0.06	0.07	
	Shoot	19-5-6S-T1	2.62	14.8	0.14	53.9	4.6	8.0	4.6	0.89	-0.57	0.11		-0.37	0.11	
		19-5-6S-T2	1.40	25.9	0.23	61.6	5.1	11.7	6.2	0.98	-0.36	0.14		-0.15	0.14	
		19-5-6S-T3	2.52	24.3	0.16	62.6	4.8	11.7	5.1	1.63	-0.70	0.12		-0.49	0.12	
		19-5-6S-T4	3.64	25.6	0.15	60.1	4.3	10.0	4.5	1.01	-0.67	0.11		-0.47	0.11	
Pot 9	Roots	19-5-9R-T1	0.02	9.4	1.75	99.0	3.1	9.5	9.2	4.65	-0.35	0.07		-0.14	0.07	
		19-5-9R-T2	0.05	6.8	1.99	78.2	5.5	15.2	3.9	3.10	-0.34	0.15		-0.14	0.15	
		19-5-9R-T3	0.10	8.1	2.82	76.8	5.3	13.0	5.0	5.10	-0.14	0.04		0.07	0.04	
		19-5-9R-T4	1.30	6.6	0.70	81.4	3.2	9.8	2.8	1.71	0.12	0.12		0.32	0.12	
	Shoot	19-5-9S-T1	0.21	27.6	0.18	80.1	3.8	15.3	4.7	3.16	-0.33	0.12		-0.12	0.12	
		19-5-9S-T2	0.44	20.2	0.27	63.9	4.8	9.9	5.0	0.95	-0.43	0.15		-0.23	0.15	
		19-5-9S-T3	0.80	21.7	0.16	70.9	4.1	8.9	4.3	0.99	-0.61	0.05		-0.41	0.05	
		19-5-9S-T4	7.41	24.3	0.11	60.9	2.9	7.1	3.6	0.78	-0.82	0.08		-0.61	0.08	
Average	Roots		0.44	7.35	1.83	73.27	4.34	10.29	3.88	3.47	-0.19	0.16	*	0.01	0.16	*
	Shoot		2.57	23.25	0.17	64.56	4.17	10.10	4.59	1.39	-0.57	0.12	*	-0.36	0.12	*
Sum	Plants		36.09													
* Uncertantiy based on 95 % CI																

Table S4: Dry weight, major element concentration (in $mg \cdot g^{-1}$) and Si isotope composition (in ‰) of the plants separated into shoot and root.

			Ca	Fe	K	Mg	P	S	Si	δ30Si	
			µg/g	µg/g	µg/g	µg/g	µg/g	µg/g	µg/g	‰ NBS28	2 s
Week 1	Mustard	Pot 1	63.3	4.4	210.5	14.0	20.2	21.4	47.3	-0.27	0.09
		Pot 4	62.0	4.4	206.2	13.9	19.7	21.3	47.3	-0.17	0.02
		Pot 7	61.7	4.4	205.2	13.8	19.4	20.6	46.6	-0.25	0.02
	Spring Wheat	Pot 2	63.7	4.4	210.3	14.0	20.0	21.3	47.0	-0.26	0.09
		Pot 5	63.9	4.5	209.1	14.2	19.6	21.5	47.1	-0.29	0.06
		Pot 8	64.6	4.5	214.1	14.3	20.4	21.9	46.8	-0.27	0.05
	Tomato	Pot 3	63.8	4.4	211.5	14.2	20.2	21.8	47.2	-0.33	0.03
		Pot 6	62.8	4.4	209.5	14.1	20.4	21.8	47.0	-0.29	0.10
		Pot 9	63.8	4.5	213.6	14.0	20.6	21.8	47.0	-0.22	0.05
Week 2	Mustard	Pot 1	54.2	4.2	188.8	12.8	16.6	18.3	47.4	-0.30	0.11
		Pot 4	44.8	4.2	171.5	11.6	13.9	16.2	47.3	-0.23	0.09
		Pot 7	54.1	4.3	192.0	12.8	16.6	18.4	47.9	-0.19	0.03
	Spring Wheat	Pot 2	62.8	4.3	200.6	13.8	18.3	20.7	45.2	-0.34	0.03
		Pot 5	62.8	4.4	198.2	13.6	17.7	20.9	44.3	-0.22	0.08
		Pot 8	62.3	4.4	203.3	13.8	18.7	21.0	44.8	-0.21	0.03
	Tomato	Pot 3	60.2	4.2	202.7	13.3	18.8	21.3	46.8	-0.32	0.10
		Pot 6	62.1	4.3	208.6	13.5	19.5	21.5	47.0	-0.25	0.04
		Pot 9	62.1	4.3	208.0	13.7	19.8	21.3	46.8	-0.26	0.08
Week 3	Mustard	Pot 1	32.7	3.7	151.5	9.3	9.9	11.1	43.3	-0.16	0.09
		Pot 4	15.8	3.7	119.4	6.8	5.8	5.4	42.2	-0.15	0.08
		Pot 7	24.5	3.7	130.4	8.1	6.5	7.6	44.1	-0.11	0.08
	Spring Wheat	Pot 2	59.0	3.9	178.1	12.4	13.2	18.5	38.1	-0.20	0.12
		Pot 5	56.8	3.8	158.3	11.5	10.0	17.2	29.6	-0.01	0.22
		Pot 8	60.4	4.0	187.5	12.8	14.5	19.8	38.7	-0.17	0.11
	Tomato	Pot 3	51.4	3.6	185.8	11.2	13.9	18.7	43.5	-0.17	0.04
		Pot 6	55.0	3.6	194.1	12.0	15.5	19.6	43.8	-0.17	0.02
		Pot 9	57.2	3.9	199.1	12.4	16.3	20.1	44.5	-0.17	0.17
Week 4	Mustard	Pot 1	15.7	3.4	116.0	6.2	6.2	5.2	39.4	-0.13	0.05
		Pot 4	1.7	3.4	83.9	3.1	1.1	4.0	38.1	-0.07	0.15
		Pot 7	2.3	3.4	70.3	3.4	0.4	0.4	39.8	-0.10	0.12
	Spring Wheat	Pot 2	54.2	3.8	138.6	11.2	8.3	17.1	30.0	0.00	0.10
		Pot 5	51.2	3.6	108.6	9.9	3.8	15.8	13.1	0.33	0.15
		Pot 8	55.7	3.9	151.9	11.5	9.6	18.0	28.5	-0.06	0.11
	Tomato	Pot 3	39.7	3.4	157.3	9.1	9.6	16.9	42.2	-0.14	0.13
		Pot 6	46.3	3.4	175.5	10.3	12.0	18.1	43.0	-0.16	0.05
		Pot 9	50.6	3.8	183.2	10.8	13.2	18.7	43.9	-0.14	0.05
Week 5	Mustard	Pot 1	5.4	3.3	92.2	3.6	2.7	0.3	35.7	-0.04	0.07
		Pot 4	0.1	3.5	61.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	36.4	-0.11	0.11
		Pot 7	0.0	3.1	35.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	34.2	-0.02	0.12
	Spring Wheat	Pot 2	49.3	3.6	93.2	9.6	3.0	15.3	17.4	0.22	0.03
		Pot 5	47.5	3.4	76.1	8.8	0.2	14.5	2.6	1.36	0.14
		Pot 8	51.7	3.7	115.1	10.3	5.2	16.4	19.0	0.17	0.10
	Tomato	Pot 3	27.5	3.1	130.2	6.8	4.9	14.3	40.9	-0.10	0.03
		Pot 6	34.1	3.2	147.1	7.9	7.4	15.7	41.7	-0.10	0.08
		Pot 9	39.8	3.6	155.6	9.0	9.3	16.6	43.2	-0.20	0.08
Week 6	Mustard	Pot 1	0.4	3.1	77.6	0.8	0.5	0.4	33.4	-0.08	0.14
		Pot 4	0.0	3.4	50.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	35.4	0.06	0.28
		Pot 7	0.0	3.5	21.6	0.0	0.1	0.8	34.7	0.01	0.10
	Spring Wheat	Pot 2	44.9	3.2	63.2	7.4	0.0	11.4	4.3	0.75	0.03
		Pot 5	44.7	3.0	60.0	7.0	0.0	12.1	0.2	0.00	0.00
		Pot 8	50.6	3.4	94.2	8.1	1.3	14.2	9.6	0.51	0.13
	Tomato	Pot 3	16.5	2.9	111.3	4.1	0.6	9.5	38.9	-0.06	0.04
		Pot 6	21.7	2.9	124.3	4.9	2.4	10.6	39.2	-0.09	0.04
		Pot 9	31.5	3.4	144.6	6.6	6.2	13.5	41.6	-0.13	0.06

Table S5: Composition (major element concentration (in µg g^{-1}) and silicon isotopic composition) of the weekly sampled nutrient solutions for the individual pots. See Table S3 for the starting composition (week 0).

Difference between		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
and		Week 0	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
		[g]	[g]	[g]	[g]	[g]	[g]
Mustard	**Pot 1**	407.5	671.2	1842.2	2707.5	2863.3	2277.8
	Pot 4	239	929.9	2469.8	3397.6	2627.5	1673.4
	Pot 7	137.8	449.4	1500.7	3119.5	3413.4	2152.7
Spring Wheat	**Pot 2**	231.1	374.7	791.1	1416	2083.7	2471.3
	Pot 5	147.6	331.3	914.9	1816.3	2306.7	2422.1
	Pot 8	133.5	189	474.7	996.6	1576.9	1756.8
Tomato	**Pot 3**	206.7	316.2	526.6	772.6	998.9	951.6
	Pot 6	224.1	233.2	352.6	625.2	913	1005.8
	Pot 9	127.1	164.6	292.4	444.6	672.3	800.2

Table S 6: Weekly transpiration (in g), determined by weighing the pots without the plants. The transpired water was replenished weekly with ultrapure water.

Methods

Method S1 Preparation of the nutrient solution

The nutrient solution was prepared from technical graded salts and dissolved in 10 L of ultrapure water. Macro nutrients 1.23 g $MgSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$, 3.54 g $Ca(NO_3)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$, 0.33 g Ferric sodium EDTA, 3.6 g KNO_3, 1.1 g KCl and 0.82 g KH_2PO_4. Micro nutrients: 0.55 mg $Al_2(SO_4)_3$, 0.28 mg KJ, 0.28 mg KBr, 0.55 mg TiO_2, 0.28 mg $SnCl_2$ $2H_2O$, 0.28 mg LiCl, 0.39 mg $MnCl_2$ $4H_2O$, 6.1 mg H_3BO_3, 0.55 mg $ZnSO_4$, 0.55 mg $CuSO_4$ $5H_2O$, 0.55 mg $NiSO_4$ $6H_2O$, 0.55 mg $Co(NO_3)_2$ $6H_2O$, 0.05 mg As_2O_3, 0.28 mg $BaCl_2$, 0.05 mg $Bi(NO_3)_3$, 0.05 mg Rb_2SO_4, 0.28 mg K_2CrO_4, 0.05 mg KF, 0.05 mg $PbCl_2$, 0.05 mg $HgCl_2$, 0.28 mg MoO_3, 0.05 mg H_2SeO_4, 0.28 mg $SrSO_4$, 0.05 mg H_2WO_4, 0.05 mg VCl_2). Silicon: 2.03 g $Na_2O_7Si_3 \cdot 3H_2O$. pH was adjusted to 6.0 using HNO_3 (PA grade).

Method S2 Plant germination and growth conditions

Plant seeds were germinated in in Petri dishes containing a nutrient solution of half the concentration than the solution used for growth experiments (Methods S1) and in the absence of sodium silicate trihydrate ($Na_2O_7Si_3 \cdot 3H_2O$). After cotyledons germinated, seeds and roots were clamped in a foam disk (3 cm high with a diameter of 2.5 cm) and each seedling (foam disk) transferred to a PP vial (50 mL centrifuge tube) filled with half-concentrated nutrient solution without sodium silicate trihydrate . Two weeks later, the foam disks including young plants were transferred to the experimental containers, four plants per container, 3 replicated container per species. These containers were opaque plastic containers 25.5 cm high, 20.5 cm deep and 20.5 cm wide (with a wall thickness of 0.5 cm). In order to reduce evaporation and to prevent algae growth in the nutrient solution, the containers were closed with opaque lids which had holes for the plants (foam disks). Germination and plant cultivation were performed in a growth chamber under controlled conditions. The temperature in the growth chamber during the day and night was maintained at 18 °C for 14 h and at 15 °C for 10 h, respectively, and the daylight intensity at the top of

the container was adjusted to 350 µE m^{-2} s^{-1}) at the start of the experiment. The relative humidity was maintained at approximately 65 %. For comparability, the cultivation conditions for the three species were the same, knowingly they are not equally suited for all species. The relatively low temperatures may have inhibited the growth of the more thermophilic tomato, while the conditions for mustard and summer wheat were close to their optimum. To supply the roots with oxygen, perforated PVC tubes were used to inject (approx. 6 L) room air into the nutrient solution twice a day for two hours each. The transpired water was replenished weekly with ultrapure water.

Method S3 Dried plant and nutrient residue digestion and chromatographic purification of Si

The crucibles containing the sample (dried down nutrient solution or charred plant material with approximately 400 mg NaOH) were placed in a high temperature furnace at 750 °C for 15 min. After cooling down the crucibles were cleaned externally with ultrapure water and placed in precleaned 50mL PP centrifuge tubes and covered with ultrapure water for 24 h. Thereafter, the crucibles were placed in an ultra-sonic bath for 30 min to facilitate the dissolution of the fusion cake. This solution #1 was decanted and collected in precleaned PP flask. The silver crucibles were then stored for ~3 h in a 0.03 M HCl solution and this solution #2 was combined with solution #1 in the PP flask. Using concentrated HCl the pH was adjusted to 1.5. If the concentration was expected to be above 60 µg g^{-1} additional 0.03 M HCl solution was added. 1:10-fold dilution was analysed by ICP-OES to determining the Si content. Approximately 60 µg Si from are loaded onto precleaned and preconditioned columns using a cation exchange resin (1.5 mL, DOWEX 50WX8, Sigma-Aldrich) and eluted using 5 mL ultrapure water. The cation exchange resin is then regenerated using HCl and HNO_3. The Si yield of the fusion procedure and the column chemistry was determined in a 1:10-fold dilution by ICP-OES.