Blue Mountain Minerals

Aglime Quarterly

What's Happening

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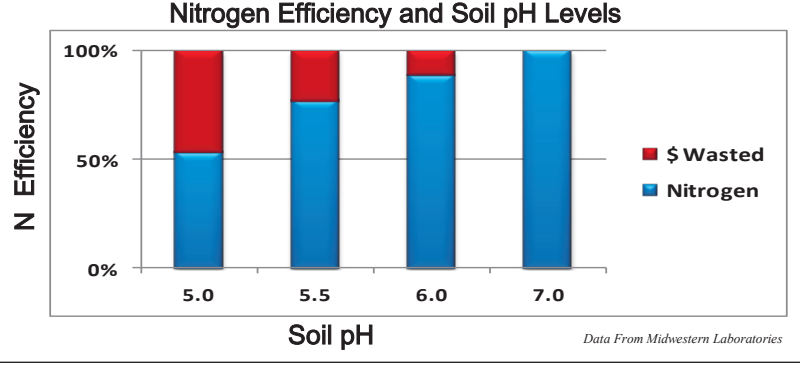
How Much Money Are You Wasting?

When soil conditions are acidic, or when soil tests show a pH value below 6.0, many primary and secondary nutrients are tied up. This means the soil systems and microorganisms cannot function properly and the nutrients are not as available for the plant to use. The problem is: when soil pH drops below 6.0, the benefits of crop inputs are greatly reduced. Fertilizer efficiency may be reduced by 20%, while nitrogen, N, availability for some plants may be reduced by as much as 50%. Situations like this simply means that a lot of money spent on fertilizer is completely wasted.

When high quality limestone or dolomitic limestone is applied and soils return to a more neutral pH level, soils physical, chemical and biological properties are enhanced. Improved aggregation and tilth allow greater root proliferation. Nutrient availability is greatly improved. Aluminum is no longer soluble and toxic. Beneficial microorganisms tend to be more active, increasing organic matter. So start saving money by monitoring and managing soil acidity for healthier more productive crops.



Why the Score Matters

When soil acidity limits crop yields crop specialists and universities consider it a good management decision to apply high quality limestone to raise the soil pH. The quality of a liming material can be determined by its *lime score*. This number is calculated from the acid neutralizing value, moisture content, and fineness of grind. Many state standards require a liming material pass a 60 mesh screen to be considered fully effective. However, a more finely ground material will react more quickly.

Blue Mountain Minerals limestone consistently scores above 95 and the dolomitic limestone scores 100. This means a material with a score of 80, would require buying 20% more. And at 100 tons that 20% equals one more whole truckload.

Material	Score	Truckloads Needed
Blue Mtn.	95-100	
Other	80	

References:
* IPNI Soil Acidity Evaluation & Management, 2013
**IPNI Soil Fertility Manual