Blue Mountain Minerals

Aglime Quarterly

What's Happening

Unified Wine Symposium
Sacramento
Jan. 29-31

World Ag Expo
Tulare
Feb. 12-14

American Pistachio Growers
San Diego
Feb. 19-21

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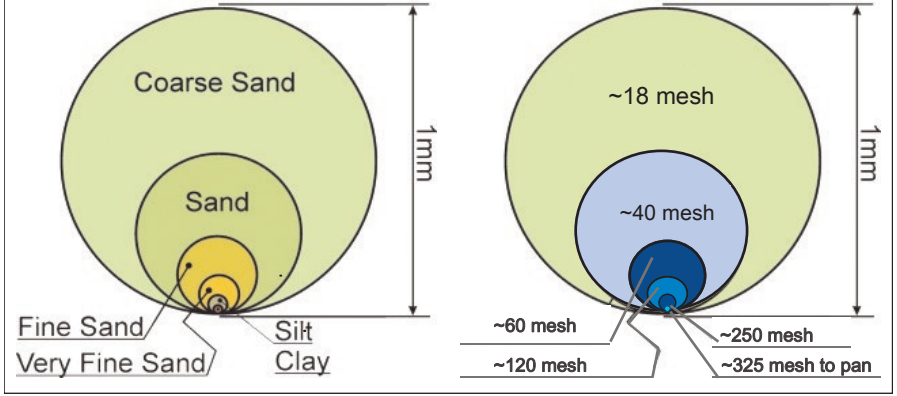
The Smaller The Better

Particle (mesh) size determines how quickly ground limestone will react to correct acidic soil. Finer material will react more quickly because limestone affects a small volume of soil around each particle, so the finer the material, the greater total surface area is available to come into contact with the soil and neutralize it.

Aglime fineness is given on the product label as a percentage of material that passes thru sieves. Mesh is the number of wires per square inch on each sieve. The higher the mesh number, the finer the material. The diagram below demonstrates the difference in size between various soil elements. Silt can be as thick as a strand of hair and clay particles are even smaller. Applying aglime that is larger than coarse sand is not effective and will remain un-dissolved in your field for several years.

Agricultural Limestone varies significantly with each source. Check the mesh size on the label and choose a quality product that offers a rapid reaction rate and 100% effectiveness.



More Bang For Your Buck

Applications of nitrogen (N) can make soil acidic. If soil pH is not corrected with aglime, the crop cannot fully utilize the available nutrients. Adding more fertilizer will not be enough to increase yields.

Coarse particles are one aspect of poor quality aglime. "Large particles, 8 to 20 mesh, are only 45% reactive in 4 years.[3]" If only half of the aglime you put down reacts to the soil, you are wasting the other half of your money. Blue Mountain Minerals' finely ground quality limestone (see graphic on right) will react faster and more completely. This means you get 100% reactivity. Isn't that what you're paying for?

Years After Application % Of Aglime That Will React in Soil		
Mesh Size	**1 yr.**	**4 yr.**
Coarser than 8	5%	15%
8 to 20	20%	45%
20 to 50	50%	100%
50 to 100 +	100%	100%

References:
* *Chart From www.cmg.colostate.edu, Soil Types. Particles Not Actual Size*
[2] *Penn State Extension, Agronomy Guide*
[3] *IPNI Soil Fertility Manual 2006*