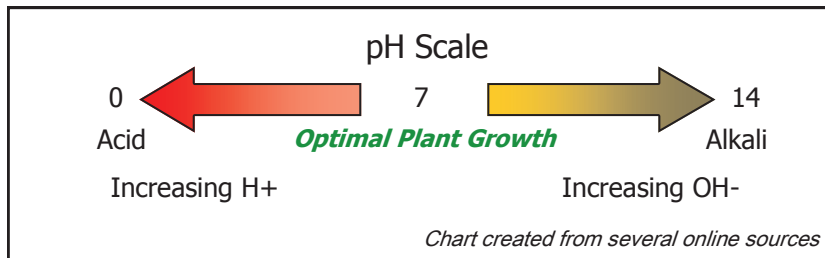




pH Matters

Farmers have been using “aglime” for years to raise the pH of the soil. *Low soil pH has an increased amount of hydrogen ion (H+) concentration, making it acidic, or a lower number on the scale. When the number of hydrogen ions are equal to the number of hydroxide ions, the soil pH is neutral, or 7. If the hydroxide ions (OH-) are increased, the pH number will be higher, with 14 being alkali. For most plants the optimal growth area is between 5.8 and 8.0.

Blue Mountain Minerals produces high quality limestone “aglime” and dolomitic limestone to increase the pH of acidic soil. **The calcium carbonate in our products work to neutralize the hydrogen ions and raise soil pH. Fertilizers and nitrogen efficiency can be increased by 50% or more when soil pH is in the optimal range, which could reduce fertilizer costs. “Aglime” does more for your soil than just increase the pH. Finely ground limestone products also provide calcium and improve physical, chemical and biological conditions of the soil. Better soil conditions will allow for increased crop growth, water uptake, microbiological activity, and can enhance the effectiveness of some herbicides.



Limestone Helps Fertilizer Work

The primary nutrients Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) are usually lacking in the soil because plants use large amounts for growth and crop production. When your soil pH is near neutral, nutrient uptake is at its maximum. When soil pH is below 6, Nitrogen (N) availability can be reduced by up to 50%. Phosphorus is also greatly influenced by soil pH. In acid soils P reacts with Iron, Aluminum and Manganese to form insoluble products, making it less available. Reduced fertilizer efficiency can be expected when the soil acidity is not controlled properly with quality liming materials from Blue Mountain Minerals.

Nutrient Availability & Percent Wasted

Soil pH	N	P	K	Wasted
7.0	100%	100%	100%	0
6.0	89%	52%	100%	19%
5.0	53%	34%	52%	53%
4.5	30%	23%	33%	71%

References:

* Jim Thorup, Regional Agronomist, Chevron Chemical Co.

** IPNI, Enviro-Briefs, No. 13

*** IPNI, Soil Fertility Manual

Aglime Quarterly

What's Happening

Zinfest
Lodi Lake
May 17-19

64th ASEV
National Conference
Monterey
June 24-28

