



# Blue Mountain Minerals

**Aglime Quarterly**

**What's Happening**

**It's in the Bag!**



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## Why Smaller is Better

**What is Mesh Size?** Mesh size is the number of screen openings per inch. For example, a 4 mesh screen has 4 openings across each side of a square inch of screen. The higher the mesh number, the smaller the openings. Limestone neutralizes soil acidity by reacting with the area of soil around each particle. Smaller particles when spread or incorporated into the soil have more surface area for the soil to react with, this makes the smaller particles react much quicker than the larger pieces.

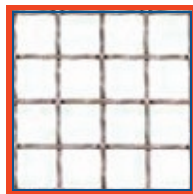
Particles that pass the 20 mesh screen illustrated below, are only about 30% effective at neutralizing soil pH within one year. For aglime to be considered 100% effective within the first year, the majority of it needs pass through a 40 mesh screen.

There are many limestone sources in California that produce aglime. The rock is often good quality and can have a high Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (CCE) rating but ultimately is a low return on investment due to ineffective large particles. If you are not sure about a products particle size, just *ask for it*.

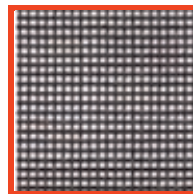
### Same Quality Rock, Same Mass, Very Different Results



1 Inch



4 Mesh .187 Inch



20 Mesh .0331 Inch

## “Gypsum is Gypsum...Right? Wrong

There are multiple forms of Gypsum: Calcium Sulfate Dihydrate (real Gypsum), Calcium Sulfate Anhydrite (CDFA gypsum equivalent), Synthetic Gypsum (a byproduct from coal fired power plants) and Recycled Wallboard Gypsum.\*

The two main factors that determine gypsum's solubility are, chemical composition and particle size. When comparing gypsums with similar chemistries, the particle size should always be the deciding factor. Gypsum that has been processed to contain a high percentage of finely ground particles will go into solution much faster. The reason is very simple, gypsum and many other rock products may never go into solution when they are too coarsely ground.

Ask your soil or crop advisor for the typical analysis that shows particle size, not just the chemistry. Your soil will thank you.

*Compare for yourself.*

References:

\*[www.calciumproducts.com](http://www.calciumproducts.com), Oct, 18, 2013 Blog, Andrew Hoiberg, Ph.D.

\*\*Oregon State University, J. Hart, Fertilizer Guide 52