



## *Managing Soil pH and Making the Most of Aglime*

Liming and managing soil pH are important considerations for profitable crop production. Here are some guidelines to remember.

- Aglime performs best when applied early and incorporated into the soil. It takes time and moisture to gain the full benefit of aglime application for crops.
- If you need to increase the pH of a soil, either calcitic or dolomitic aglime will perform well. If soil test calls for adding magnesium (Mg), dolomitic limestone will supply Mg and increase pH. If soil neutralization is the only need, then the aglime that provides the best value is the wise choice.
- In no-till applications, the inability to mix aglime into the soil means that extra time is needed for the aglime to move down through the soil. You can only expect to change the soil pH about one-half inch of depth per year. The best practice is to lime to the maximum crop need and incorporate before the first no-till planting. If you are currently in no-till, apply aglime early and often. Follow these suggestions for pastures as well.
- Soil tests play a vital role in agriculture. Test early and follow

recommendations to the best of your ability.

- Crop rotation is a best management practice. It is critical that soil tests are taken prior to crop rotation for optimum yields.
- The size of aglime particles determines how fast aglime will neutralize soil acidity and provide other benefits. Generally, the smaller the particle, the faster the pH change. Powder will dissolve within three months, sand size in a year, and BB size in three or more years.
- Pelletized lime is a very fine aglime that is held together by a water soluble binder. It is a great product for home and garden use or where the dust from bulk spreading is a problem.

Aglime offers many benefits:

- Neutralizes the soil, raises the pH
- Supplies vital calcium (Ca) and Mg (if dolomitic)
- Increases microbial activity
- Improves soil tilth
- Enhances the availability of other nutrients for plant growth.

*Source: National Stone Association*