Blue Mountain Minerals

Aglime Quarterly

What's Happening

Unified Wine Symposium
Sacramento
January 28–30

American Pistachio Grower Conference
San Diego
February 17–19

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What's Your Score?

California does not require that an aglime score be listed on an agricultural limestone label. Many other states require terms be used that take into consideration particle size, such as the Aglime Score, Effective Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (ECCE), Effective Neutralizing Value (ENV), and Total Neutralizing Value (TNV). The Aglime Score used in Oregon is based on a calculation that determines how effective the fineness, or particle sizes, will be at neutralizing soil pH when combined with CCE. Each of these terms provide the purchaser with a way to compare the quality of aglime, not just the quality of the rock before it was crushed.

Both the gravel and the aglime being spread in the photos below, have a CCE of 100, but they have very different aglime scores. Ask for the score when purchasing a liming material. It is the best indicator of how quickly the aglime will react in the soil or if it will be in your field for decades.

CCE Is Not Enough

Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (CCE) is an expression of the acid neutralizing value of a source of liming material when compared to pure calcium carbonate. How finely the material is crushed determines how quickly it will react to neutralize soil acidity.

According to Oregon's calculations, a liming material is considered too coarse to have any effect on acidity when it is 10 mesh or larger and only 30% effective when it is 20 mesh, or roughly the size of table salt.

When soil test results recommend applying a liming material to raise the pH, make sure you choose the highest quality material available. If half the material purchased passes a 40 mesh screen, that means the half that doesn't is less than 60% effective. Be sure you are not paying for a truckload of high quality rocks. **Check the score!**

Mesh #	Effectiveness
10	0%
20	30%
40	60%
40 Minus	100%

References:
*Plant Nutrition Today, IPNI 2008, No. 4
**Oregon State University, J. Hart, Fertilizer Guide 52