Blue Mountain Minerals

Aglime Quarterly

What's Happening

Unified Wine Symposium
Sacramento
January 24–26

February Events
Colusa Farm Show
Tulare World Ag Expo
APG Annual Meeting

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What Does The CCE Tell You?

The Boulders we crush and the Agricultural Limestone that is manufactured, have basically the same Calcium Carbonate Equivalent, CCE. While the CCE is an important factor to consider when looking at the quality of a liming material, there are other vital components to consider that effect the neutralizing value, they are particle size and moisture.

Oregon, and other states require the use of an aglime score, or other standardized method to easily compare aglime purity. The Aglime Score is a numerical expression of quality based on calculations using the CCE, Particle Sizes and Moisture. For Aglime particles to be considered 100% effective at neutralizing acidity, they need to pass through a 40 mesh screen, this is much smaller than table salt, giving these particles a maximum solubility rating. Have your soil tested regularly and check with your PCA or CCA for more information on the Aglime Score.

What's the Score

Crushed limestone is a product used to alter the pH or physical properties of a soil. Liming materials are used to raise the soil pH and supply calcium or magnesium.

To calculate the aglime score we use the same formula Oregon requires. It takes into account the CCE, Fineness, and Moisture to determine how effective the aglime is. The fineness or particle size of aglime effects the rate a liming material goes into solution in the soil. Aglime does not neutralize acidity or provide nutrients until it dissolves. If half of the aglime purchased is coarser than 20 mesh, roughly the size of table salt, the coarser particles are calculated to be only 30% effective at neutralizing soil pH. The coarser particles drop the total aglime score to 53 as in the example below.**

Before you buy aglime, ask your PCA for the *Score*.

Aglime	CCE	Fineness	Moisture	Score
A	100%	55%	3%	53
B	**100%**	**95%**	**3%**	**94**

References:
*A2986 Soil Calcium to Magnesium levels, E.E. Schulte & K.A. Kelling. ** FG52, J. Hart Fertilizer Guide 1998 012016