

# Limestone Custom Application



## Why is Limestone required?

Because of our high rainfall time. Most crops prefer a higher pH range so the soil must be adjusted with a limestone. The soil pH level affects how well nutrients are taken up by plants. When soil pH is not in an optimum range for nutrient uptake some of the money spent on fertilizer will be wasted. To see this graphically, refer to Figure #1.

For most crops, an application of 1 – 2 tonnes per acre will bring soil pH into an optimum range between pH 5.5 – 6.5.

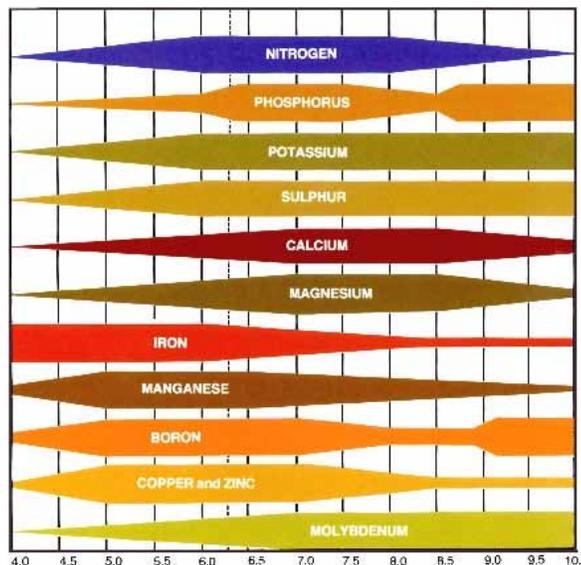


Figure 1

## Agricultural Grade Limestone

The most suitable product used in agricultural settings is bulk agricultural grade limestone. It is 98% calcium carbonate, milled to pass a 10 mesh screen. Dolomitic limestone, which is part calcium carbonate and part magnesium carbonate, is not used for bulk application on farmland because of cost and availability. Calcium carbonate is the least expensive product available for pH correction. We are lucky in the Fraser Valley as agricultural grade limestone is inexpensive and available locally.

## TerraLink Custom Application Program

Start with a soil test, which can be done quickly and conveniently at TerraLink's Plant Science Lab at our Abbotsford location. The test results will help pinpoint how much limestone is required.

We spread at any location in the Fraser Valley provided the fields are disced flat. Limestone is spread on farmland using TerraLink's TerraGators, equipped with floatation tires that minimize soil compaction. In 2009, the TerraGators were upgraded by the addition of a Trimble GPS guidance system. The operator uses an on-board computer to control and operate the machine. The software interprets downloaded positional data from global positioning satellites for more precise spreading. The resulting improved efficiency means reduced misses and overlaps, which makes more consistency in crop growth and development.

**Note:** Minimum order 20 tonnes per location for most Fraser Valley areas.