

# Understanding your soil analysis

## Bryan McLeod



# UNDERSTANDING YOUR SOILS USING THE ALBRECHT MODEL

BRYAN MCLEOD



# Why Analyse our soils

- IF YOU CAN'T TEST IT YOU CAN'T GUESS IT
- Understanding our soils limiting factors helps us to build a strong foundation and a good environment for all beneficial soil biology
- We can wait and let it happen or help make it happen
- We need to understand our soils positives and negatives
- Working with our soils, we can help them develop, structurally and biologically, seeing the beneficial end results is extremely rewarding
- As we grow plants soil nutrient levels change, eg all plants as they grow acidify the soil – they take in H<sub>2</sub>O, the H goes to the soil

# Soils Mineral Balance has a direct effect on the following.

- **PERCENTAGE OF CROP WASTAGE AT HARVEST**
- **PLANT NUTRITIONAL CONTENT.** Directly related to soil mineral balance
- **FLAVOUR/PALATABILITY .** Directly related to soil mineral balance
- **SHELF LIFE .** Directly related to soil mineral balance



**A soil analysis** has to be

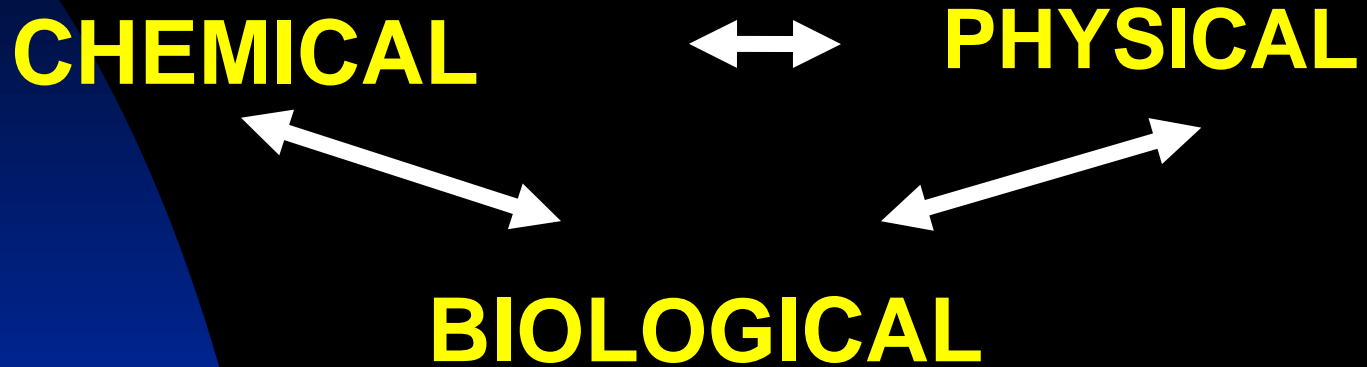
**EDUCATIONAL** teaching you to understand your soil

**PROVIDING INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE**  
for you to be able to formulate the correct fertiliser program for your particular soil.

**Don't look over the fence** your soil is unique to you

**ALLOWS YOU TO TEST THE SOIL TESTER**

# UNDERSTANDING THE THREE ASPECTS of YOUR SOIL



If air space is increased by altering the chemical balance → increased microbial activity → improved soil structure → more natural N → more available P

# Do we want to grow volume or volume and quality

## Look for all limiting factors



Having a good looking plant doesn't automatically mean its nutritious

Being organic doesn't automatically mean its good

Quality means nutrition, taste and shelve life

Not only volume



Sulphur is the limiting factor



Poor soil structure due to –

28% Exchangeable Sodium ideal  
0.5 to 3%. Lime applied and  
worked to 50mm – result 12 months  
later



Compacted High 8.4 PH -  
Excess

Mg 40% – low Ca 40%.

Lime applications displacing  
Mg

Now 62%Ca, Mg 18%

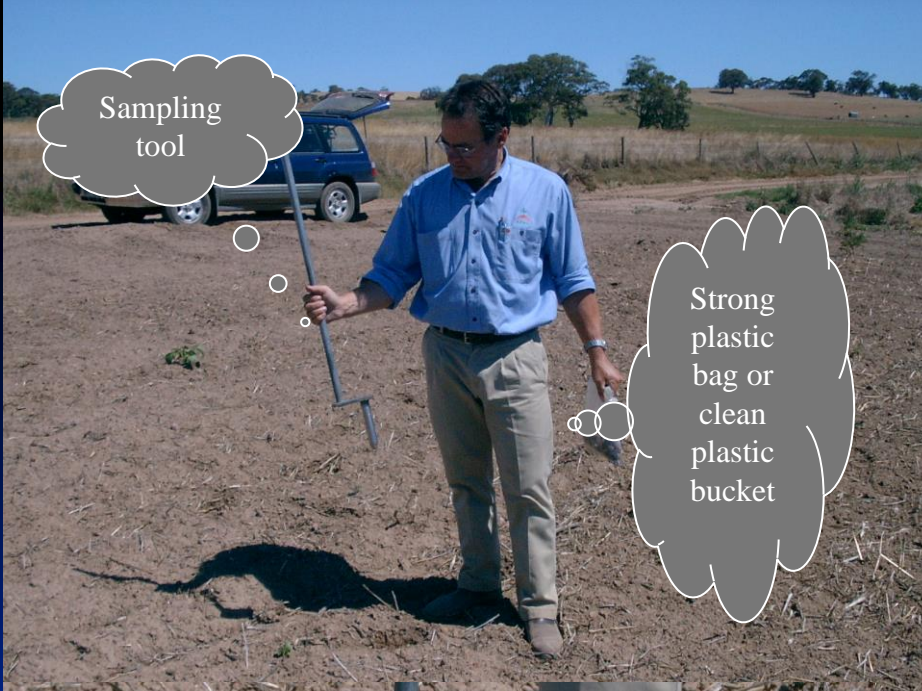


# DIAGNOSING NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES BY PLANT ANALYSIS


*(Robin Graham - Waite Analytical Services)*

- **Table 1. The concentrations of nutrients in young leaf-petiole tissue of two broad-acre crops growing across the fence from each other, one of them giving the farmer cause for concern because of lack of vigour and an unusual pale yellow colour.**

	Concentrations of nutrients in tissue (mg/kg)				
Crop condition	Nitrate-N	P	K	S	Zn
Vigorous	2,500	2,100	32,000	1,900	21
Poor	9,000	3,000	38,000	160	29




Sampling tool




Strong plastic bag or clean plastic bucket

Placing sample in clean plastic bag.



Push probe into full depth (150mm) cultivated soil. 100 mm pasture or "no till" cropping



Compress cultivated soil with heel. Then sample in heel print

**Take at least 20 plugs from a given area per sample**

# Presentation of data comes in many different forms from each Lab

But they can all contain the same info, we just need to know how to extract it.

## We will see how

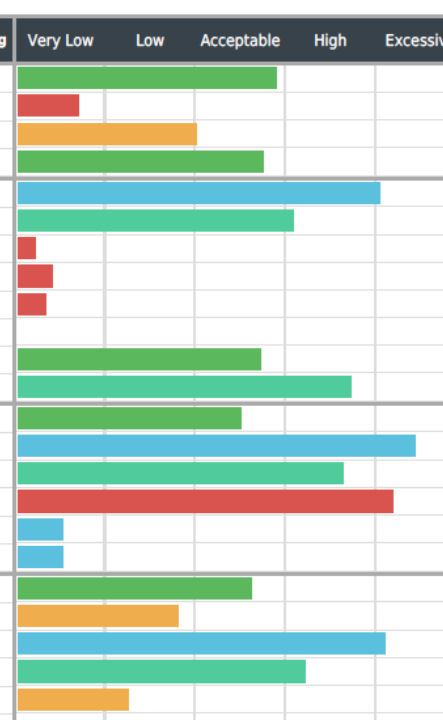
Lab No	XSS20092	XSS20093	XSS20094
Name	Warrumbidgee	Warrumbidgee	Warrumbidgee
Code	07/07/20	07/07/20	07/07/20
Customer	Warrumbidgee	Warrumbidgee	Warrumbidgee
Depth	0-10	0-10	0-10
Colour	6	6	6
Gravel %	0	0	0
Texture	2.5	2.5	3
Ammonium Nitrogen mg/kg	22	22	22
Nitrate Nitrogen mg/kg	22	39	6
Phosphorus Colwell mg/kg	209	118	9
Potassium Colwell mg/kg	705	1720	25
Sulfur mg/kg	10.1	14.1	10
Organic Carbon %	4.4	5.9	4
Conductivity dS/m	0.130	0.183	0.0
pH Level (CaCl2)	6.5	6.5	6.5
pH Level (H2O)	6.8	5.5	6.4
DTPA Copper mg/kg	1.3	1.3	1.3
DTPA Iron mg/kg	437.60	467.00	312
DTPA Manganese mg/kg			
DTPA Zinc mg/kg			
Exc. Aluminium meq/100g			
Exc. Calcium meq/100g			
Exc. Magnesium meq/100g			
Exc. Potassium meq/100g			

So often when we receive our long awaited soil reports

At first glance the data can be a little confronting -

All labs data contains valuable info it may be just in a different format. Some is easier to understand

Parameter	Unit	Desired Level	Level Found	c.mol/kg
ECEC	cmol/kg	5.00-25.0	22.6	
Organic Carbon (W6 g)	%	1.20-2.00	0.540	
pH 1:5 water	pH units	6.50-7.50	6.48	
pH CaCl2 (following 4A1)	pH units	5.50-6.50	6.23	
Nitrate - N (KCl)	mg/kg	20-50	160	
Ammonium - N (2M KCl)	mg/kg	2.0-10	12	
Olsen Phosphorus	mg/kg	15-25	1.9	
Colwell Phosphorus	mg/kg	25-50	5.0	
Bray 2 Phosphorus	mg/kg	30-60	6.0	
DGT-P	µg/L		13.0	
PBI Unadjusted		35.0-70.0	60.0	
MCP Sulfur (S)	mg/kg	8.0-20	41	
Calcium (Ca) - AmmAc	mg/kg	100-2500	1830	9.14
Magnesium (Mg) - AmmAc	mg/kg	10-50	850	6.99
Potassium (K) - AmmAc	mg/kg	150-220	363	0.928
Sodium (Na) - AmmAc	mg/kg	10-160	1260	5.50
Exchangeable Aluminium	cmol/kg	0.0-0.35	<0.02	
Exchangeable hydrogen	cmol/kg	0.10-0.35	<0.02	
Iron (Fe)	mg/kg	0.50-2.0	1.4	
Iron (Fe)	mg/kg	10-70	8.9	
Manganese (Mn)	mg/kg	1.0-10	93	
Copper (Cu)	mg/kg	0.50-1.0	1.8	
Zinc (Zn)	mg/kg	0.50-1.0	0.19	



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EAL Lab uses Albrecht calculations I use the APAL lab, one of my consultant clients uses CSBP

**AGRICULTURAL SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT**

1 sample supplied by FarmLab on 12/11/2020. Lab Job No.K0574  
 Analysis requested by Sam Duncan. Your Job: Ray Milidoni - FL0000218  
 Level 2, W40 ARMIDALE NSW 2351

Sample ID:	Sample 1	Heavy Soil	Medium Soil	Light Soil	Sandy Soil	
	FL0000218					
Crop:	Soil					
Client:	Ray Milidoni	Clay	Clay Loam	Loam	Loamy Sand	
Parameter	Method reference	K0574/1 Indicative guidelines - refer to Notes 6 and 8				
Soluble Calcium (mg/kg)		5,574	1150	750	375	175
Soluble Magnesium (mg/kg)		601	160	105	60	25
Soluble Potassium (mg/kg)	**Inhouse S10 - Morgan 1	723	113	75	60	50
Soluble Phosphorus (mg/kg)		314	15	12	10	5.0
Phosphorus (mg/kg P)	**Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 9E2 (Bray 1)	295	45 <sup>note #</sup>	30 <sup>note #</sup>	24 <sup>note #</sup>	20 <sup>note #</sup>
	**Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 9B2 (Colwell)	859	80	50	45	35
	**Inhouse S3A (Bray 2)	1,292	90 <sup>note #</sup>	60 <sup>note #</sup>	48 <sup>note #</sup>	40 <sup>note #</sup>
Nitrate Nitrogen (mg/kg N)		120	15	13	10	10
Ammonium Nitrogen (mg/kg N)	**Inhouse S37 (KCl)	11	20	18	15	12
Sulfur (mg/kg S)		66	10.0	8.0	8.0	7.0
pH	Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 4A1 (1:5 Water)	7.32	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.3
Electrical Conductivity (dS/m)	Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 3A1 (1:5 Water)	0.516	0.200	0.150	0.120	0.100
Estimated Organic Matter (% OM)	**Calculation: Total Carbon x 1.75	16	> 5.5	>4.5	> 3.5	> 2.5

# Today we will look at two sets of data. Rays Dad's Garden and Megan's pasture

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Client:	Ray Milidoni				

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Ammonium Nitrogen (mg/kg N)	**Inhouse S37 (KCl)	11	20	18	15	12
Sulfur (mg/kg S)		66	10.0	8.0	8.0	7.0
pH	Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 4A1 (1:5 Water)	7.32	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.3
Electrical Conductivity (dS/m)	Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 3A1 (1:5 Water)	0.516	0.200	0.150	0.120	0.100
Estimated Organic Matter (% OM)	**Calculation: Total Carbon x 1.75	16	> 5.5	> 4.5	> 3.5	> 2.5
Exchangeable Calcium (cmol./kg)	Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 15D3 (Ammonium Acetate)	31	15.6	10.8	5.0	1.9
(kg/ha)		13,899	7000	4816	2240	840
(mg/kg)		6,205	3125	2150	1000	375
Exchangeable Magnesium (cmol./kg)		5.4	2.4	1.7	1.2	0.60
(kg/ha)		1,467	650	448	325	168
(mg/kg)		655	290	200	145	75
Exchangeable Potassium (cmol./kg)		2.4	0.60	0.50	0.40	0.30
(kg/ha)		2,138	526	426	336	224
(mg/kg)		954	235	190	150	100
Exchangeable Sodium (cmol./kg)		0.23	0.3	0.26	0.22	0.11
(kg/ha)		118	155	134	113	57
(mg/kg)		53	69	60	51	25
Exchangeable Aluminium (cmol./kg)	**Inhouse S37 (KCl)	0.02	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2
(kg/ha)		3.1	121	101	73	30
(mg/kg)		1.4	54	45	32	14
Exchangeable Hydrogen (cmol./kg)	**Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 15G1 (Acidity Titration)	<0.01	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2
(kg/ha)		<1	13	11	8	3
(mg/kg)		<1	6	5	4	2
Effective Cation Exchange Capacity (ECEC) (cmol./kg)	**Calculation: Sum of Ca,Mg,K,Na,Al,H (cmol./kg)	39	20.1	14.3	7.8	3.3
Calcium (%)		79	77.6	75.7	65.6	57.4
Magnesium (%)		14	11.9	11.9	15.7	18.1
Potassium (%)		6.3	3.0	3.5	5.2	9.1
Sodium - ESP (%)	**Base Saturation Calculations - Cation cmol./kg / ECEC x 100	0.59	1.5	1.8	2.9	3.3
Aluminium (%)		0.04	6.0	7.1	10.5	12.1
Hydrogen (%)		0.00				
Calcium/Magnesium Ratio	**Calculation: Calcium / Magnesium (cmol./kg)	5.7	6.5	6.4	4.2	3.2

Lab No	XSS20092	XSS20093	XSS20094
Name	East	North Front Paddock	West Block Paddock
Code	07/07/20	07/07/20	07/07/20
Customer	Warmambool Veterinary	Warmambool Veterinary	Warmambool Veterinary
Depth	0-10	0-10	0-10
Colour	GR	DKGR	GR
Gravel	%	0	0
Texture		2.5	3.5
Ammonium Nitrogen	mg/kg	17	12
Nitrate Nitrogen	mg/kg	22	6
Phosphorus Colwell	mg/kg	203	94
Potassium Colwell	mg/kg	703	257
Sulfur	mg/kg	10.1	10.0
Organic Carbon	%	4.43	3.78
Conductivity	dS/m	0.130	0.092
pH Level (CaCl2)		6.2	5.3
pH Level (H2O)		6.8	6.4
DTPA Copper	mg/kg	1.13	1.35
DTPA Iron	mg/kg	437.60	312.40
DTPA Manganese	mg/kg	7.76	18.74
DTPA Zinc	mg/kg	3.19	2.16
Exc. Aluminium	meq/100g	0.010	0.040
Exc. Calcium	meq/100g	20.22	18.13
Exc. Magnesium	meq/100g	6.38	12.25
Exc. Potassium	meq/100g	1.54	0.53

# B L McLeod Premium Soil Report

Lab No XSS20092 XSS20093 XSS20094

DATA FROM CSBP SUPPLIED by Customer: Meghan Claxton  
 Sample Name: WEST BLOCK PD  
 Agent: 0  
 BRYAN MCLEOD  
 Crop: Pasture  
 Lab No.: 0  
 Date: 18-Jan-21

Here I have taken  
 Megan's lab data and  
 put it into one of my  
 worksheets

Name East North West Block  
 Code 07/07/2019  
 Customer Warmambool Veterinary  
 Depth 0-10

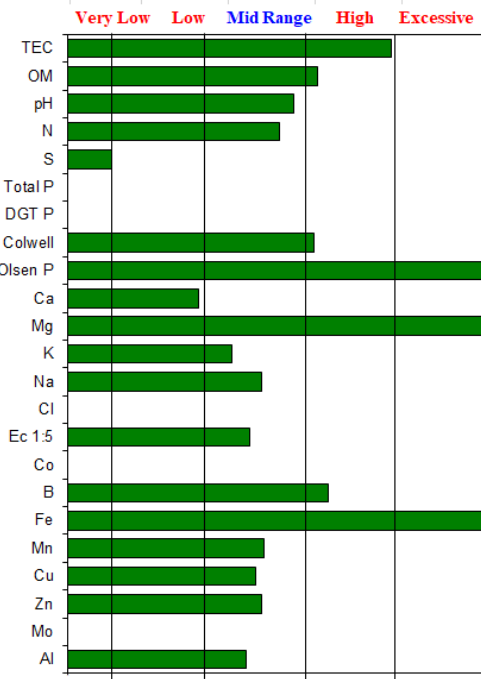
Colour	GR	GR	GR
Gravel	0	0	0
Texture	2.5	2.5	3.5
Ammonium Nitrogen	17	29	12
Nitrate Nitrogen	22	39	6
Phosphorus Colwell	203	318	94
Potassium Colwell	703	1129	257
Sulfur	10.1	14.1	10.0
Organic Carbon	4.43	5.90	3.78
Conductivity	0.130	0.183	0.092
pH Level (CaCl2)	6.2	4.5	5.3
pH Level (H2O)	6.8	5.5	6.4
DTPA Copper	1.13	1.41	1.35
DTPA Iron	437.60	467.00	312.40
DTPA Manganese	7.76	33.15	18.74
DTPA Zinc	3.19	16.38	2.16
Exc. Aluminium	0.010	0.060	0.040
Exc. Calcium	20.22	20.07	18.13
Exc. Magnesium	6.38	6.67	12.25
Exc. Potassium	1.54	2.43	0.53

	Unit	Desired Level	Level Found
Total Exchange Capacity (TEC)		12-25	33.98
Colloidal Organic Matter	%	4.0 - 6.0	6.30
pH (Water)		6.0 - 6.5	6.40

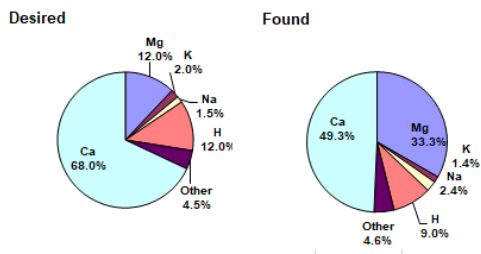
Anions			
	Unit	Desired Level	Level Found
Nitrogen (N)	kg/ha	90 - 120	107
NO 3	ppm		6.0
NH 3	ppm		12.0
MCP Sulfur (S)	ppm	40 - 60	10
Total P	ppm		0
DGT Phosphorus	ppm	0	0
Phosphorus (Colwell)	ppm	75-85	94
Phosphorus (Olsen)	ppm	33	73
Deficit	kg/ha		0
P Buffering Index (PBI)		<100	182

Cations			
	Unit	Desired Level	Level Found
Calcium (Ca)	ppm	4619	10379
Found	kg/ha	3348	7523
Deficit	kg/ha		2856
Magnesium (Mg)	ppm	490	1101
Found	kg/ha	1357	3050
Deficit	kg/ha		0
Potassium (K)	ppm	265	595
Found	kg/ha	191	429
Deficit	kg/ha		166
Sodium(Na)	ppm		94
Found	kg/ha		212

Trace Elements			
	Unit	Desired Level	Level Found
Chlorides (Cl)	ppm	<200	*
Salinity EC 1:5	dS/m	<0.15	0.09
Cobalt (Co)	ppm	>1.5	*
Boron (B)	ppm	0.8	1.53
DTPA Iron (Fe)	ppm	10 - 70	312.00
DTPA Manganese (Mn)	ppm	4 - 50	18.74
DTPA Copper (Cu)	ppm	0.5 - 5.0	1.35
DTPA Zinc (Zn)	ppm	1.0 - 5.0	2.16
Molybdenum (Mo)	ppm	0.8 - 2.0	*
Aluminium (Al)	ppm	<2.0	0.40



### Base Saturation Percentages



Lab No	XSS20092	XSS20093	XSS20094
Exc. Sodium	0.81	0.74	
Iron Hot CaCl2	1.58	2.18	
Phosphorus Olsen	48.9	73.7	
PBI	227.7	189.7	

Base Saturation %			
	Unit	Desired Level	Level Found
Ca:Mg RATIO		5.66	1.48
Calcium	% Ca	68.0	49.30
Magnesium	% Mg	12.0	33.30
Potassium	% K	2.0	1.40
Sodium (ESP)	% Na	1.5	2.40
Other Bases	%	4.5	4.60
Exchangeable Hydrogen	% H	12.0	9.00

Total Deficiencies:					
The following table shows the total deficiency of each element (kg/ha). Please discuss optimum application rates with your advisor.					
PHOSPHORUS	nd	BORON	nd	COBALT	1.5
MAGNESIUM	nd	IRON	nd	MOLYBDENUM	1.2
POTASSIUM	166	MANGANESE	83		
CALCIUM	2856	COPPER	1.3		
SULPHUR	40	ZINC	11.7		

\* This test is available but not requested by client. nd = not deficient n req = not requested  
 proaccon@ozemail.com.au N7 0212956469

**Firstly understand what we are looking for  
We must see what are the limiting factors in our soil**

## **SOIL MINERALS: EXCESSES & DEFICIENCIES**

**Soil minerals can work together or be antagonistic to  
each other.**

**ALWAYS REMEMBER:**

**Plant deficiencies not only occur due to lack of a soil  
element,**

**BUT**

**Are also created by excesses.**

**An excess always creates a deficiency.**



<u>SOIL</u>		<u>PLANT</u>
<b>Excess</b> NITROGEN	<i>may cause</i>	POTASSIUM deficiency
<b>Excess</b> PHOSPHORUS Iron	<i>may cause</i>	POTASSIUM, zinc, calcium OR deficiency
<b>Excess</b> MAGNESIUM	<i>may cause</i>	POTASSIUM deficiency
<b>Excess</b> POTASSIUM	<i>may cause</i>	MAGNESIUM deficiency
<b>Excess</b> POTASSIUM <b>Excess</b> SODIUM <b>Excess</b> MAGNESIUM	<i>may cause</i>	CALCIUM deficiency
<b>Excess</b> CALCIUM	<i>may cause</i>	POTASSIUM deficiency MAGNESIUM deficiency PHOSPHORUS deficiency TRACE ELEMENTS deficiency
<b>Excess</b> MANGANESE	<i>may cause effects similar to</i>	MANGANESE deficiency
<b>Excess</b> BORON	<i>may cause marginal and interval scorch similar to</i>	POTASSIUM and/or MAGNESIUM deficiency
<b>Excess</b> SODIUM &/or CHLORINE	<i>may cause marginal leaf scorch similar to</i>	POTASSIUM deficiency

**EXCESSES MAY EXIST WHEN VALUES FOR.....**

<b>NITROGEN (N)</b>	are over	250 kgs per hectare
<b>PHOSPHORUS (as P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)</b>	are over	800 kgs per hectare
<b>SODIUM (Na)</b>	are over	2% Base Saturation
<b>POTASSIUM (K)</b>	are over	8% Base Saturation
<b>MAGNESIUM (Mg)</b>	are over	20% Base Saturation
<b>CALCIUM (Ca)</b>	are over	75% Base Saturation

**KNOW AND  
REMEMBER**

Customer:   
 Advisor: Organic Consultants   
 Sample Name: STH SIDE   
 Crop: SPINACH   
 Lab No.: B0020   
 Date: 9-Aug-07

Control 12557

CROP **SPINACH**   
 Report Prepared by Bryan L McLeod

Email: proagcon@ozemail.com.au

**Plant analysis report -**

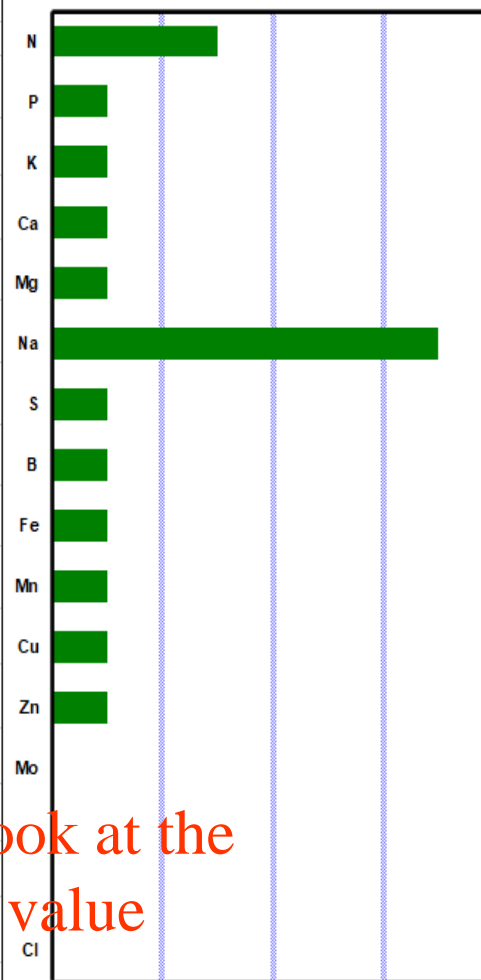
Date: Agent B McLEOD Sample: **SPINACH**



Results - Relative to *Plant* Requirements

**Your Test Results**

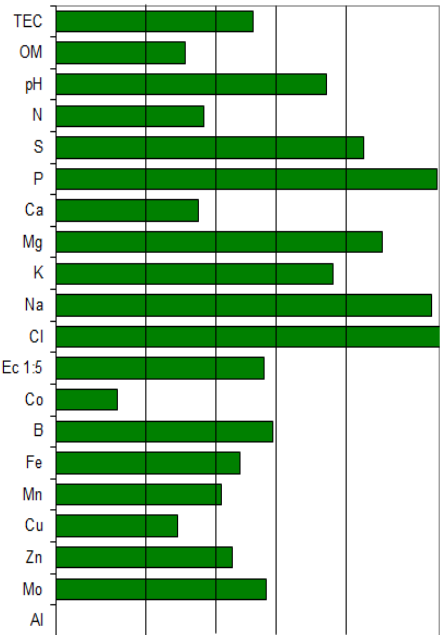
Deficient Low Optimum High



Nitrogen	%	3.39
Phosphorus	%	0.27
Potassium	%	2.27
Calcium	%	0.29
Magnesium	%	0.19
Sodium	%	1.16
Sulphur	%	0.20
Boron	ppm	18.42
Iron	ppm	26.76
Manganese	ppm	11.54
Copper	ppm	2.47
Zinc	ppm	12.96
Molybdenum	"	
Chloride	%	

Unit	Desired Level	Level Found
Total Exchange Capacity (TEC)	12-25	19.81
Colloidal Organic Matter %	4.0 - 6.0	3.20
pH (Water)	6.0 - 6.5	8.00
Nitrogen (N)	kg/ha	82
NO 3	ppm	*
NH 3	ppm	*
Sulphate (S)	ppm	84
Olsen (P)	ppm	111
Phosphorus (Bray 2)	kg/ha	570
Deficit	kg/ha	0
Units P		
Phosphate Recovery	%	80

Very Low Low Acceptable High Excessive

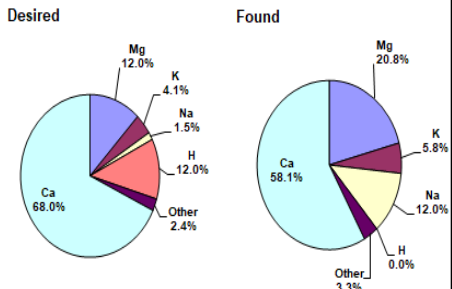


Desired	ppm	kg/ha
Calcium (Ca)	2692	6050
Found	2298	5165
Deficit		885
Magnesium (Mg)	285	640
Found	494	1111
Deficit		0
Potassium (K)	320	719
Found	445	999
Deficit		0
Sodium(Na)		
Found	545	1224

**Desired Range**

4.20 - 5.20
0.48 - 0.58
3.50 - 5.30
0.60 - 1.20
0.50 - 0.90
0.10 - 1.00
0.40 - 0.80
42 - 63
220 - 245
50 - 85
8 - 20
40 - 80
0.15 - 0.30
0.1 - 0.23

**Base Saturation Percentages**



Chlorides (Cl)	ppm	<250	1656.0
Salinity EC 1:5	dS/m	<0.15	0.41
Cobalt (Co)	ppm	>1.5	0.57
Boron (B)	ppm	>1.5	1.95
Iron (Fe)	ppm	100 - 400	290.00
Manganese (Mn)	ppm	80 - 140	83.00
Copper (Cu)	ppm	>2.0	1.50
Zinc (Zn)	ppm	>8.0	11.00
Molybdenum (Mo)	ppm	0.8 - 1.2	1.80
Aluminium (Al)	ppm	<2.0	*

Ca:Mg RATIO		5.67	2.79
Calcium	% Ca	68.0	58.10
Magnesium	% Mg	12.0	20.80
Potassium	% K	4.1	5.80
Sodium	% Na	1.5	12.00
Other Bases	%	2.4	3.30
Exchangeable Hydrogen	% H	12.0	0.00

**Additional Comments:**

The following show the kg/ha of deficient elements required to bring the soil to the ideal level

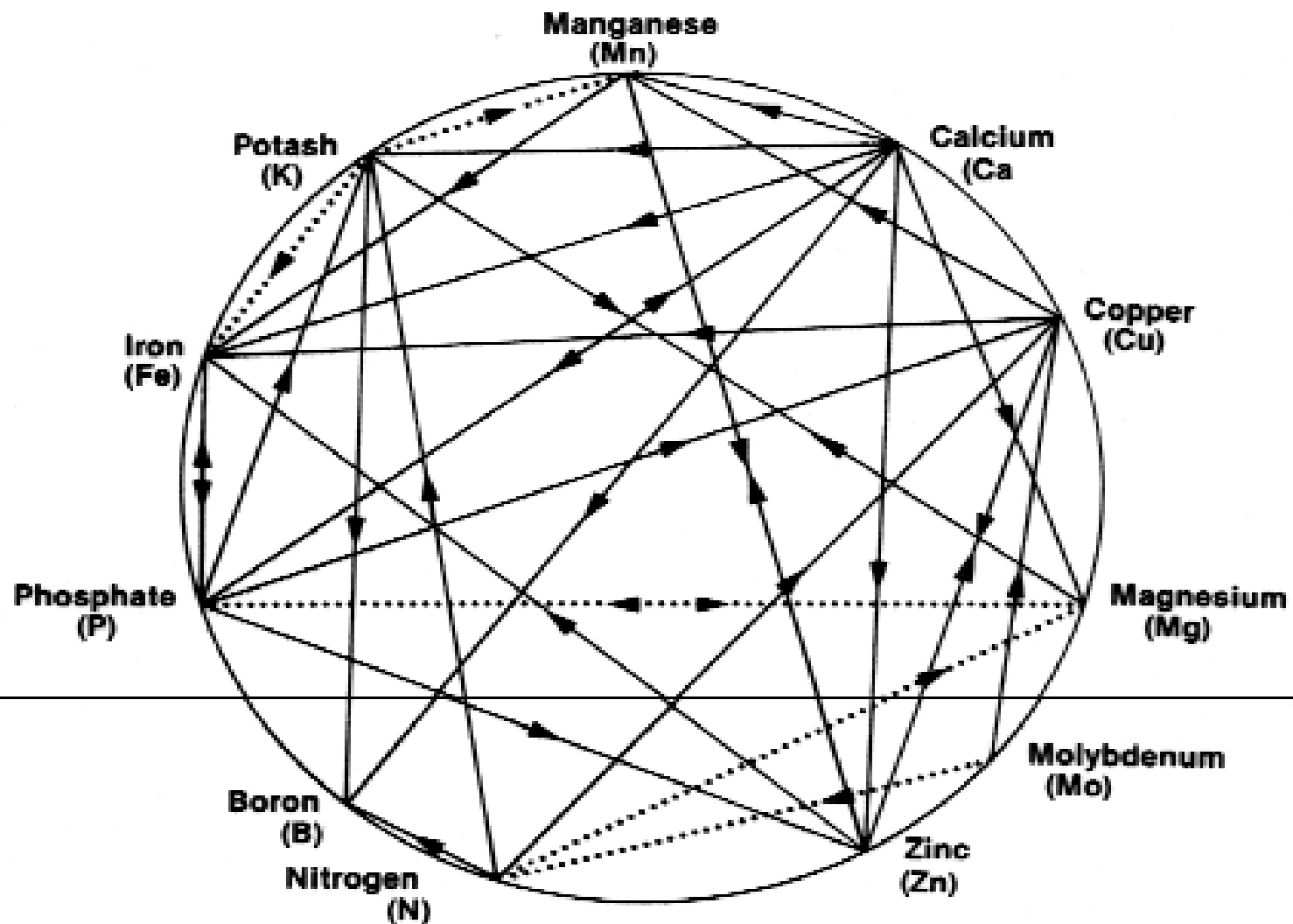
PHOSPHORUS	nd	BORON	nd	COBALT	0.6
MAGNESIUM	nd	IRON	nd	MO	nd
POTASSIUM	nd	MANGANESE	nd		
CALCIUM	885	COPPER	1.0		
SULPHUR		ZINC	nd		

**We must look at the nutritional value**

\* This test is available but not requested by client.

nd = not deficient n req = not requested

# STIMULATION AND ANTAGONISM CHART



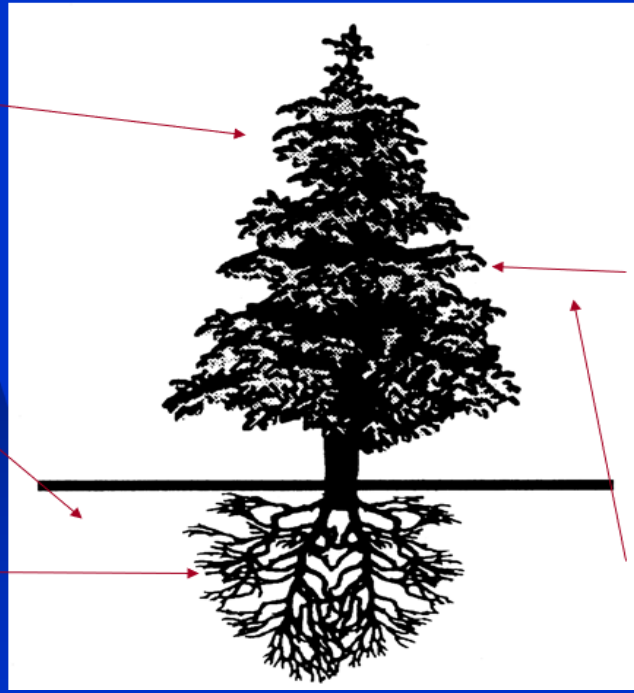
..... Stimulation  
———— Antagonism

Plants have two different life requirements Above ground and below

Atmosphere CO2

Water takes Oxygen Into soil

Oxygen



Tops require CO2. Reduced performance with high Oxygen CO2. Note most CO2 comes from soil C02 from microbial activity

Roots require oxygen. Die with excess CO2

Soil activity is continuously producing CO2 and releasing it to the atmosphere

Desirable soil life requires O2



# Soil analysis results will use the words CATIONS + ANIONS-

## POSITIVE

■ Calcium	60 - 68%
■ Magnesium	12 - 20%
■ Potassium	3- 6%
■ Sodium	1.5%
■ Other Bases	2.5%
■ Hydrogen	12%
■ Total	100%

All positives held to the  
negative soil particle

## NEGATIVE

- Sulphur
- Phosphorus
- Nitrogen

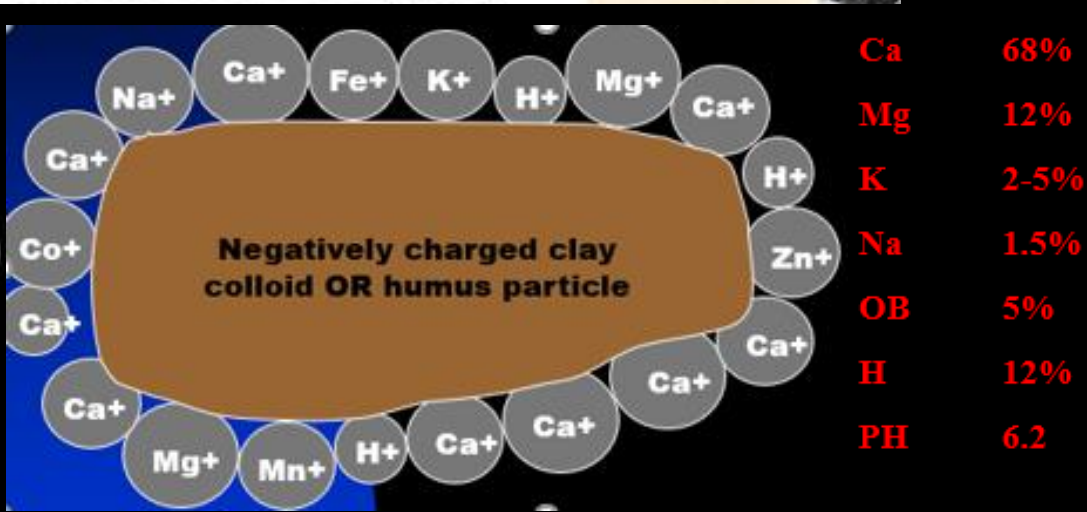
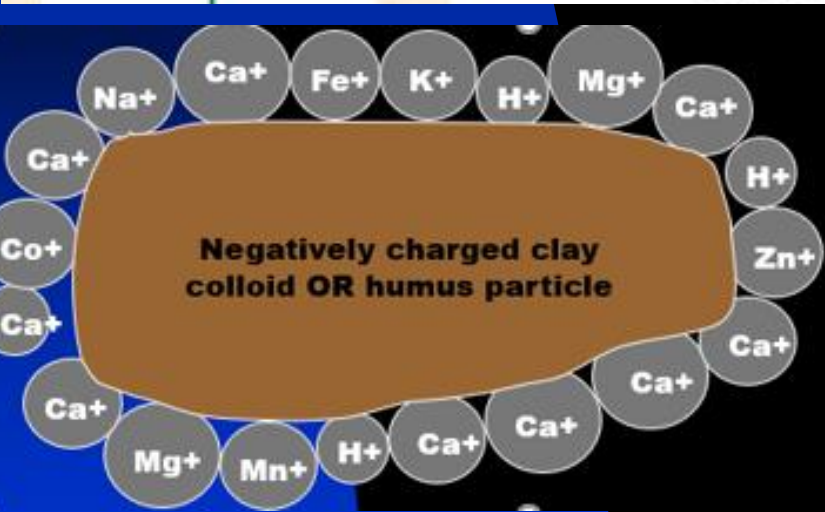
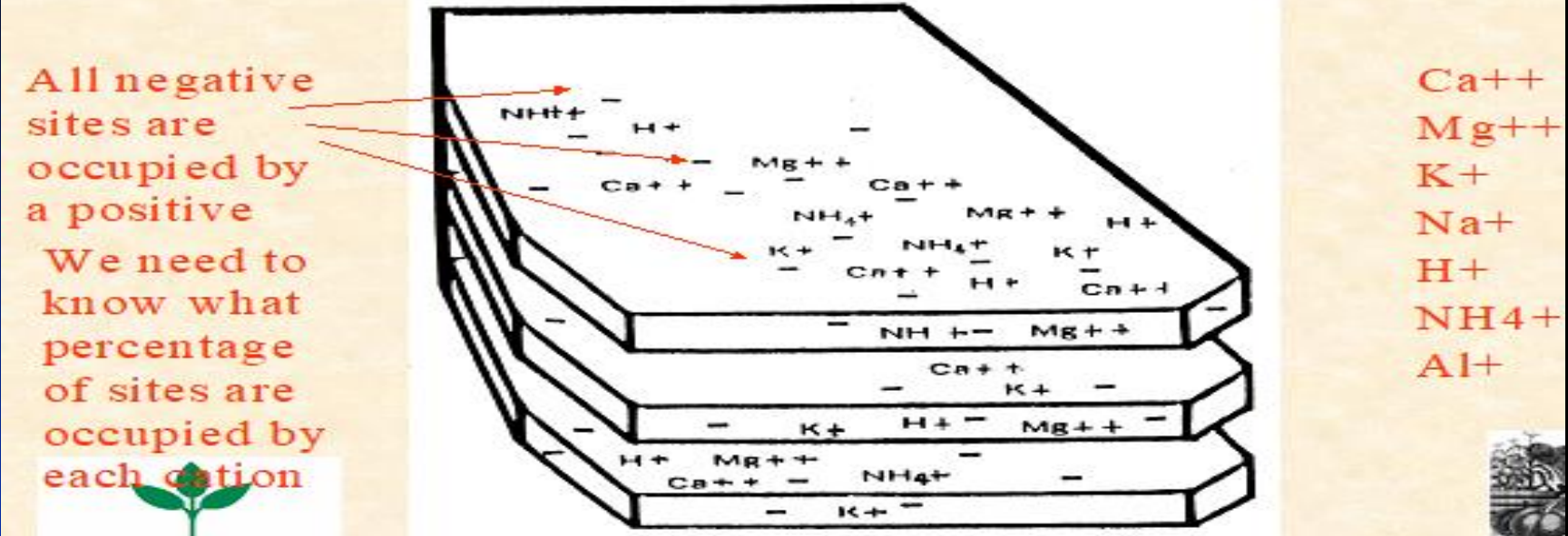
Clay or OM  
Negatively  
Charged

# What I look at in what order

1. CEC/TEC (Cation Exchange Capacity or Total Exchange Capacity)
2. PH, how is it constructed – See Base Saturation Percentages –  
Some show you some you will need to calculate
3. Organic Carbon or OM, low or high?
4. Soil N
5. Sulphur level
6. P level
7. PBI - P recovery – P retention
8. Cations
9. Excesses and deficiencies – An excess of one always creates a plant deficiency of another
10. Calculate desired and deficiencies
11. Trace elements

# Total Exchange Capacity TEC or Cation Exchange Capacity CEC Tells us

- your soils composition – how many negative clay/OM sites there are to hold positively charged cations (Ca, Mg, K, Na, Al)
- This is your soils ability to hold cations



# TOTAL EXCHANGE CAPACITY

## Where does it come from?

- It is the total of the cations, positive charged elements, Ca, Mg, K, Na, Al, measured in meq/100g soil or c.mol/kg
- See it in your soil report
- It is a measure of the positive charged, nutrient storage capacity of a soil.
- It tells you the nutrient storage capacity of your soil



# You can find the CEC/TEC in the majority of tests if not we can calculate it

It's the sum of the Cations, Ca, Mg, K, Na, Al, H in meq/100gm

Lab No	XSS20092	XSS20093	XSS20094
Name	East	North Front Paddock	West Block Paddock
Code	07/07/20	07/07/20	07/07/20
Customer	Warmambool Veterinary	Warmambool Veterinary	Warmambool Veterinary
Depth	0-10	0-10	0-10
Colour	GR	DKGR	GR
Gravel	0	0	0
Texture	2.5	2.5	3.5
Ammonium Nitrogen	17	29	12
Nitrate Nitrogen	22	39	6
Phosphorus Colwell	203	318	94
Potassium Colwell	703	1129	257
Sulfur	10.1	14.1	10.0
Organic Carbon	4.43	5.90	3.78
Conductivity	0.130	0.183	0.092
pH Level (CaCl2)	6.2	4.5	5.3
pH Level (H2O)	6.8	5.5	6.4
DTPA Copper	1.13	1.41	1.35
DTPA Iron	437.60	467.00	312.40
DTPA Manganese	7.76	33.15	18.74
DTPA Zinc	3.19	16.38	2.16
Exc. Aluminium	0.010	0.060	0.040
Exc. Calcium	20.22	20.07	18.13
Exc. Magnesium	6.38	6.67	12.25
Exc. Potassium	1.54	2.43	0.53
Exc. Sodium	0.81	0.74	0.89
Boron Hot CaCl2	1.58	2.18	1.53

**BSP**

**Ca 18.13 49.30**

**Mg 12.25 33.30**

**K 0.53 1.44**

**Na 0.89 2.42**

**Al 0.040 0.11**

**OB 2.8 5.0**

**H 0.58 9.0**

**Total 35.22 CEC**

**Megan's report there is no TEC/CEC or Base Saturation Percentages(BSP) recorded so it needs to be calculated**

**Add the meq/100gm of each ie Ca Mg K Na Al H(if shown) = the TEC, here it is 35.22**

**Ca 18.13meg divide Ca by the CEC x 100 = 49.30% BSP**

**Mg 12.25 divide Mg by the CEC x 100 = 33.30% BSP**

**K 0.53 divide K by the CEC x 100 = 1.44% BSP**

**Na 0.89 divide Na by the CEC x 100 = 2.42% BSP**

**Al 0.040 divide Al by the CEC x 100 = 0.11% BSP**

**Total 31.84**

**OB 2.8 5.0 I have taken the liberty to add a percentage  
H 0.58 9.0 for both other bases and H which I believe  
gives a more accurate result**

**Total 35.22 CEC I have used this CEC figure for my calculation**

**AGRICULTURAL SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT**

Sample supplied by FarmLab on 12/11/2020. Lab Job No.K0574  
Analysis requested by Sam Duncan. Your Job: Ray Milidoni - FL0000218  
2, W40 ARMIDALE NSW 2351

Sample ID:	Sample 1 FL0000218	Heavy Soil	Medium Soil	Light Soil	Sandy Soil
Crop:	Soil				
Client:	Ray Milidoni	Clay	Clay Loam	Loam	Loamy Sand

Parameter	Method reference	K0574/1	Indicative guidelines - refer to Notes 6 and 8			
Exchangeable Calcium (mg/kg)	Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 15D3 (Ammonium Acetate)	5,574	1150	750	375	175
(cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)		31	15.6	10.8	5.0	1.9
Exchangeable Calcium (kg/ha)		13,899	7000	4816	2240	840
(mg/kg)		6,205	3125	2150	1000	375
Exchangeable Magnesium (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)		5.4	2.4	1.7	1.2	0.60
(kg/ha)		1,467	650	448	325	168
(mg/kg)		655	290	200	145	75
Exchangeable Potassium (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)		2.4	0.60	0.50	0.40	0.30
(kg/ha)		2,138	325	426	336	224
(mg/kg)		954	235	190	150	100
Exchangeable Sodium (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	**Inhouse S37 (KCl)	0.23	0.3	0.26	0.22	0.11
(kg/ha)		118	135	134	113	57
(mg/kg)		53	69	60	51	25
Exchangeable Aluminium (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	**Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 15G1 (Acidity Titration)	0.02	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2
(kg/ha)		3.1	121	101	73	30
(mg/kg)		1.4	54	45	32	14
Exchangeable Hydrogen (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	**Calculation: Sum of Ca,Mg,K,Na,Al,H (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	<0.01	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2
(kg/ha)		<1	13	11	8	3
(mg/kg)		<1	6	5	4	2
Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	**Base Saturation Calculations - Cation cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg / CEC x 100	39	20.1	14.3	7.8	3.3
Calcium (%)		79	77.6	75.7	65.6	57.4
Magnesium (%)		14	11.9	11.9	15.7	18.1
Potassium (%)		6.3	3.0	3.5	5.2	9.1
Sodium - ESP (%)		0.59	1.5	1.8	2.9	3.3
Aluminium (%)		0.04	6.0	7.1	10.5	12.1
Hydrogen (%)	0.00					
Calcium/Magnesium Ratio	**Calculation: Calcium / Magnesium (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	5.7	6.5	6.4	4.2	3.2

EAL add  
Ca, Mg, K, Na  
Al and H  
PH >7 so no H

Ca 31

Mg 5.4

K 2.4

Na 0.23

Al 0.02

Total 39.05 CEC

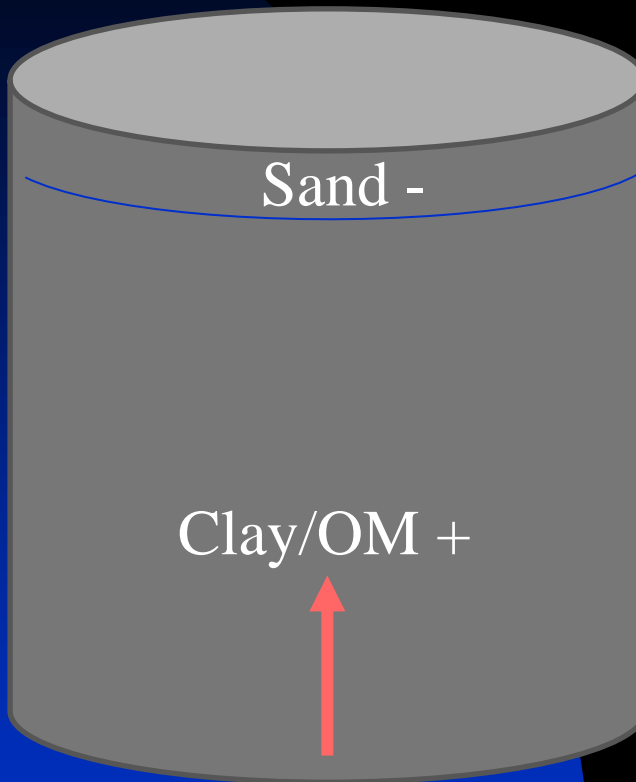
# What if your report doesn't show meq/100gm or cmol/kg But only shows ppm we can calculate each one

	PH 5.6	If pH is <7.0 include H for your calculations see H chart				Multiply each by 0.73		
	ppm		(meq/100g)		BSP	Actual % including H		
Calcium	3500	divide by 200	17.5	divide by CEC x 100	72.0	52.5		
Magnesium	600	divide by 120	5.0	divide by CEC x 100	20.4	14.9		
Potassium	300	divide by 390	0.8	divide by CEC x 100	3.2	2.3		
Sodium	250	divide by 230	1.1	divide by CEC x 100	4.5	3.3		
		CEC	24.31		100.0	73.0		
				From H chart	27.0	27.0		hydrogen%
				Minus H	73.0	100.0		

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-81>

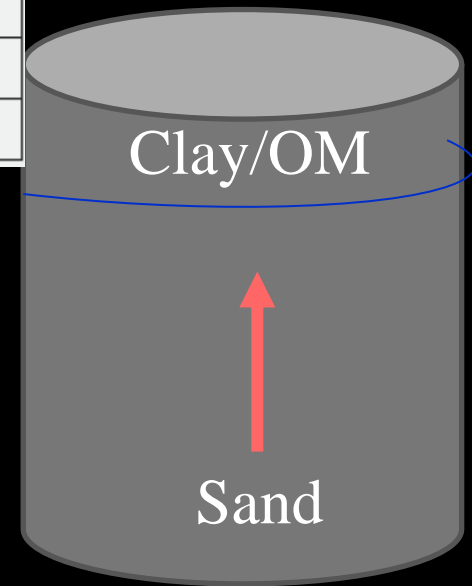
The analysis only tests the clay/OM content, so as the sand % increases the TEC/CEC decreases. This means that there is a lower % of exchange sites in your soil to hold nutrients

Soil Texture	Typical CEC (meq/100 g soil)
Sands	3-5
Loams	10-15
Silt loams	15-25
Clay and clay loams	20-50
Organic soils	50-100



- Percentage of clay/OM only. Sand is neutral

Both hold 100% when full but volume is different. The size of the tank/reserve is totally different

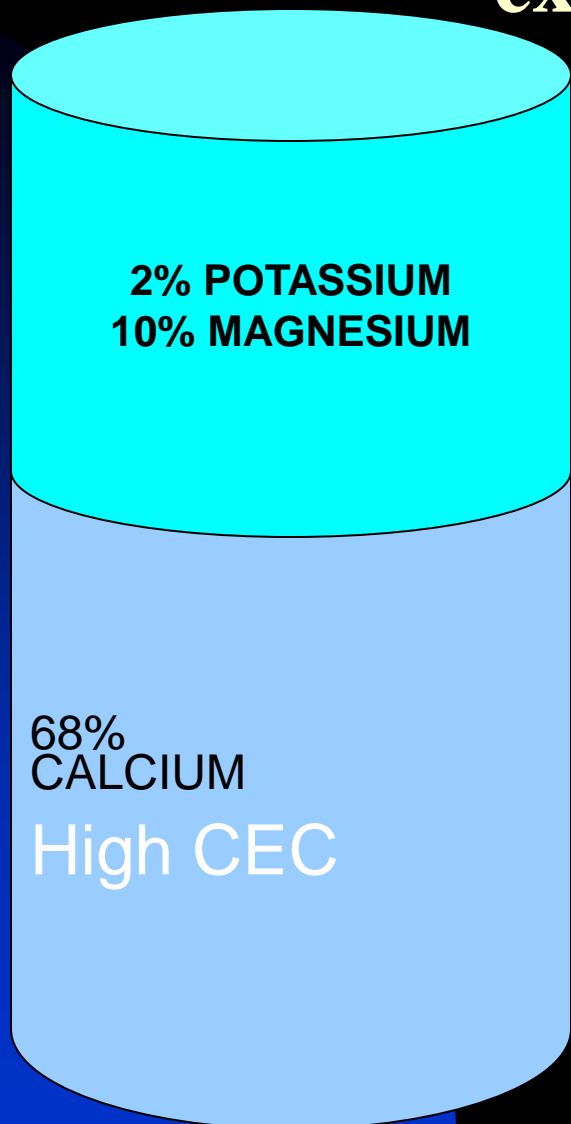


As sand % goes up TEC decreases, nutrient holding capacity goes down

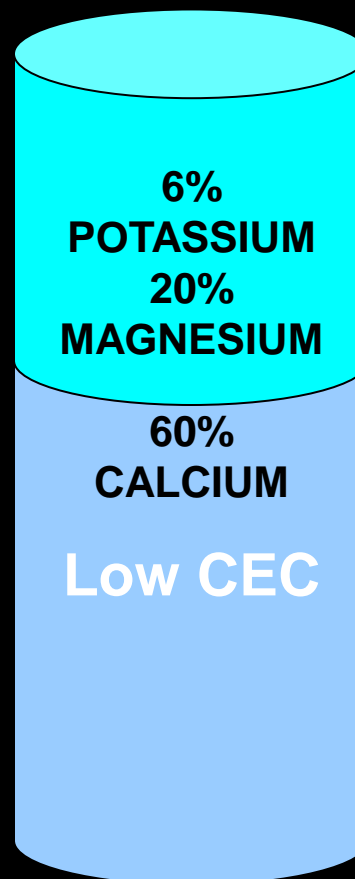
As clay/OM % increases TEC goes up so we have a greater capacity to hold nutrients



# Variations of desired percentages with different exchange capacities



High TEC > 25



Low TEC < 5

	Unit	Desired Level	Level Found	c.mol/kg
ECEC	cmol/kg	5.00-25.0	22.6	
Organic Carbon (W&B)	%	1.20-2.00	0.540	
pH 1:5 water	pH units	6.50-7.50	6.48	
pH CaCl2 (following 4A1)	pH units	5.50-6.50	6.23	
Nitrate - N (2M KCl)	mg/kg	20-50	160	
Ammonium - N (2M KCl)	mg/kg	2.0-10	12	
Olsen Phosphorus	mg/kg	15-25	1.9	
Colwell Phosphorus	mg/kg	25-29	5.0	
Bray 2 Phosphorus	mg/kg	30-60	6.0	
DGT-P	µg/L		13.0	
PBI Unadjusted		35.0-70.0	67.0	
MCP Sulfur (S)	mg/kg	8.0-20	41	
Calcium (Ca) - AmmAc	mg/kg	1200-2500	1830	9.14
Magnesium (Mg) - AmmAc	mg/kg	200-350	850	6.99
Potassium (K) - AmmAc	mg/kg	150-220	363	0.928
Sodium (Na) - AmmAc	mg/kg	15.0-160	1260	5.50
Exchangeable aluminium	cmol/kg	0.10-0.35	<0.02	
Exchangeable hydrogen	cmol/kg	0.10-0.35	<0.02	
Boron	mg/kg	0.50-2.0	1.4	

Labs often give a wide range of desired levels

Desired levels are directly related to the TEC/CEC

TEC	5	10	15	20
Desired	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm
Ca	600	1360	2040	2720
Mg	121	145.2	217.8	290.4
K	156	195	234	296.4
Na	17.25	34.5	51.75	69



# AGRICULTURAL SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT

Desired % maybe the same but volumes and ppm will be different

1 sample supplied by FarmLab on 12/11/2020. Lab Job No.K0574

Analysis requested by Sam Duncan. Your Job: Ray Milidoni - FL0000218

Level 2, W40 ARMIDALE NSW 2351

		Sample 1	Heavy Soil	Medium Soil	Light Soil	Sandy Soil
Exchangeable Calcium	(cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	31	15.6	10.8	5.0	1.9
	(kg/ha)	13,899	7000	4816	2240	840
	(mg/kg)	6,205	3125	2150	1000	375
Exchangeable Magnesium	(cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	5.4	2.4	1.7	1.2	0.60
	(kg/ha)	1,467	650	448	325	168
	(mg/kg)	655	290	200	145	75
Exchangeable Potassium	(cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	2.4	0.60	0.50	0.40	0.30
	(kg/ha)	2,138	526	426	336	224
	(mg/kg)	954	235	190	150	100
Exchangeable Sodium	(cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	0.23	0.3	0.26	0.22	0.11
	(kg/ha)	118	155	134	113	57
	(mg/kg)	53	69	60	51	25
Exchangeable Aluminium	(cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	0.02	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2
	(kg/ha)	3.1	121	101	73	30
	(mg/kg)	1.4	54	45	32	14
Exchangeable Hydrogen	(cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	<0.01	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2
	(kg/ha)	<1	13	11	8	3
	(mg/kg)	<1	6	5	4	2
Effective Cation Exchange Capacity (ECEC) (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	**Calculation: Sum of Ca,Mg,K,Na,Al,H (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	39	20.1	14.3	7.8	3.3
Calcium (%)	**Base Saturation Calculations - Cation cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg / ECEC x 100	79	77.6	75.7	65.6	57.4
Magnesium (%)		14	11.9	11.9	15.7	18.1
Potassium (%)		6.3	3.0	3.5	5.2	9.1
Sodium - ESP (%)		0.59	1.5	1.8	2.9	3.3
Aluminium (%)		0.04	6.0	7.1	10.5	12.1
Hydrogen (%)		0.00				
Calcium/Magnesium Ratio	**Calculation: Calcium / Magnesium (cmol <sub>e</sub> /kg)	5.7	6.5	6.4	4.2	3.2

Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 15D3  
(Ammonium Acetate)

\*\*Inhouse S37 (KCl)

\*\*Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 15G1  
(Acidity Titration)

\*\*Calculation:  
Sum of Ca,Mg,K,Na,Al,H (cmol<sub>e</sub>/kg)

\*\*Base Saturation Calculations -  
Cation cmol<sub>e</sub>/kg / ECEC x 100

\*\*Calculation: Calcium / Magnesium (cmol<sub>e</sub>/kg)

# EXCHANGE CAPACITY & APPLICATION RATES

		3 TEC	PPM		30 TEC	PPM
Desired Calcium	60%	816 Kgs/ha	408	(Ca68%)	8160 Kgs/ha	4080
Measured Calcium	34%	408 Kgs/ha	204	(Mg 12%)	4080 Kgs/ha	2040
Deficiency Kgs		408 Kgs/ha			4080 Kgs/ha	
Lime Required		1.2 tn/ha			11.6 tn/ha	
Magnesium	20%	144 Kgs/ha	77	(Mg 12%)	720 Kgs/ha	360
		72 Kgs/ha	36		360 Kgs/ha	180
		72 Kgs/ha			360 Kgs/ha	
Potassium	7%	164 Kgs/ha	82	(K 3%)	702 Kgs/ha	351
		81.9 Kgs/ha	42		351 Kgs/ha	175.5
		81.9 Kgs/ha	42		351 Kgs/ha	

# PH

Look at the pH but most importantly study to see just how the pH is constructed – this is the most important thing you must know about pH

PH is only a measurement of the hydrogen ion activity in a soil. It is not a measurement of soil fertility.

PH is the result of the balance or levels of cations (positive charged elements) not the cause of it.

The PH of a soil can be constructed with one or all of the cations.  
Not just calcium

The application of calcium, magnesium, potassium and sodium construct a pH.

**Do you lime for PH**

**or do you lime to correct a Ca  
def**

**You should never lime for pH**

**The PH is automatic when the  
soils Cations are balanced**

# Understand that

- Magnesium is 1.66 times more effective than calcium at raising pH
- Potassium 2 times calcium
- Sodium 4 times calcium.

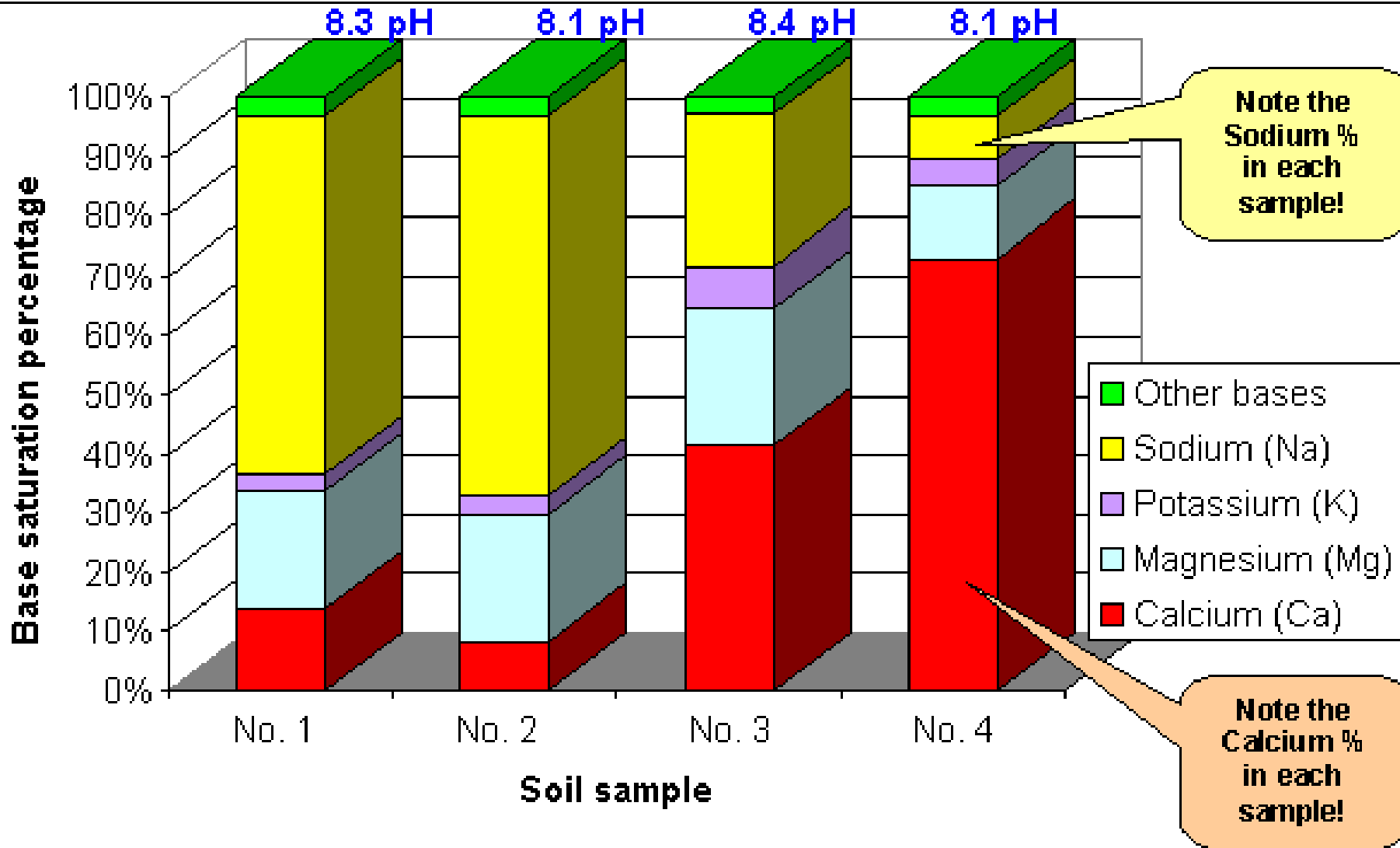
# WHAT CONSIDERATION IS PH

Actual results from samples I have taken

<b>pH(H<sub>2</sub>O)</b>	<b>6.20</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>7.80</b>	<b>5.80</b>
<b>Calcium</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>45.98</b>	<b>23.61</b>	<b>37.43</b>	<b>7.10</b>
<b>Magnesium</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>20.36</b>	<b>21.70</b>	<b>19.64</b>	<b>14.35</b>
<b>Potassium</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>6.12</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>0.63</b>
<b>Sodium</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>7.16</b>	<b>32.46</b>	<b>32.83</b>	<b>51.10</b>
<b>Other Bases</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>5.40</b>	<b>5.42</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>5.80</b>
<b>Hydrogen</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>00.00</b>	<b>21.00</b>



Note that the pH is nearly the same for the 4 samples!



# Organic Matter/Organic Carbon

$$\text{OM} = \text{OC} \times 1.75 \text{ or } \text{OM}/1.75 = \text{OC}$$

Calculations can be slightly different between labs as some use 1.66

Dad's OM = 16% Indicating a high percentage of composed and partly composted plant material

Megan's OC of 3.78% x 1.75 = 6.4% OM. At the top of the desired range

- **Ideal level of OM 4 to 6%**
- **Excess unprocessed OM can result in low available soil N**
- **Soils can contain undecomposed or partly decomposed OM which during the analysis process can recorded as OC or OM**
- **Soil organisms involved in decomposition use nearly all available N for themselves, so plants go N deficient**
- **I find this to be common in many orchards/gardens**



# Application Rates

To compare per ha rates to garden rates, firstly there are 10,000sq metres/ha

Multiply per ha rate by 1000 = total gms then divide by 10,000 = rates/sq metre

eg 200kg/ha X 1000 = 200,000 gm/10,000 = 20gm/sq metre

# **SULPHUR** The under estimated element of equal importance as P

Essential for growth, plant nitrogen utilisation

Sulphate S is water soluble so leaches quickly depending on rainfall/irrigation, elemental S breaks down slowly so is more stable in the soil

Ideal soil level should be 40 to 60ppm.

The majority of labs indicate a desired level of between 10 to 20ppm in practicable terms this is far too low for optimum produce production

**Application: Desired 50ppm – level found x 2 x 1.123 = kg/ha required, do not apply more than 60kg/ha of element S per annum**

Can be added to mix as

- elemental S as 90% Sulphur granules – these are fine elemental powder mixed with bentonite clay. Do not apply 100% S granules as they take a significant time to break down
- Apply elemental S granules fert mix with to reduce total fertiliser cost when P not required
- Gardens use Sulphate of ammonia to provide S
- Single super (superphosphate) contains 11% S

# Phosphorus

Your P analysis readings can be received in different forms as many labs use different analyse procedures

- Colwell P
- Olsen P
- Bray 1 P
- Bray 2 P
- DGT

Phosphorus (mg/kg P)	***Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 962 (Bray 1)	295	4
	***Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 962 (Colwell)	859	9
	***Inhouse SSA (Bray 2)	1,292	9

PBI Phosphorus Buffering index <100 desired

P Retention % of 100

P Recovery % of 100

# Phosphorus

The desired levels should be on your report.

Application:  $\text{Desired ppm} - \text{level found} \times 2 \times 1.123 = \text{kg/ha required}$ .

Then look at the % of P in available products

Eg. Rock Phosphate 13%, Single Super (Super Phosphate 11%) DAP 20%

Then work out an economic rate of application

Dad's garden – normal results from compost applications

Phosphorus (mg/kg P)	**Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 9E2 (Bray 1)	295	45 <sup>note 1</sup>	30 <sup>note 1</sup>	24 <sup>note 1</sup>	20 <sup>note 1</sup>
	**Rayment & Lyons 2011 - 9B2 (Colwell)	859	80	50	45	35
	**Inhouse S3A (Bray 2)	1,292	90 <sup>note 1</sup>	60 <sup>note 1</sup>	48 <sup>note 1</sup>	40 <sup>note 1</sup>

Phosphorus Colwell	mg/kg	203	318	94
--------------------	-------	-----	-----	----

Megan's pasture

Both reports show high to excess levels of P



# P Calculation example

Desired level minus level found x 2 x 1.123 = kg of P/ha




Divide by 10,000 = gm/sq metre of garden

Found 20ppm, desired 30ppm = 10 def then see percentages of P product list

Then choose product from local company products

		N	P	K	S	Mg	Ca	
CODE								
	10581	Superten	-	9.0	-	10.5	-	22.0
	10754	Superten 5K (10% Potash superten)	-	8.1	5.0	9.5	-	19.8
	10755	Superten 7K (15% Potash superten)	-	7.7	7.5	8.9	-	18.7
	10757	Superten 10K (20% Potash superten)	-	7.2	10.0	8.4	-	17.6
	10759	Superten 15K (30% Potash superten)	-	6.3	15.0	7.4	-	15.4
	10761	Superten 25K (50% Potash superten)	-	4.5	25.0	5.3	-	11.0

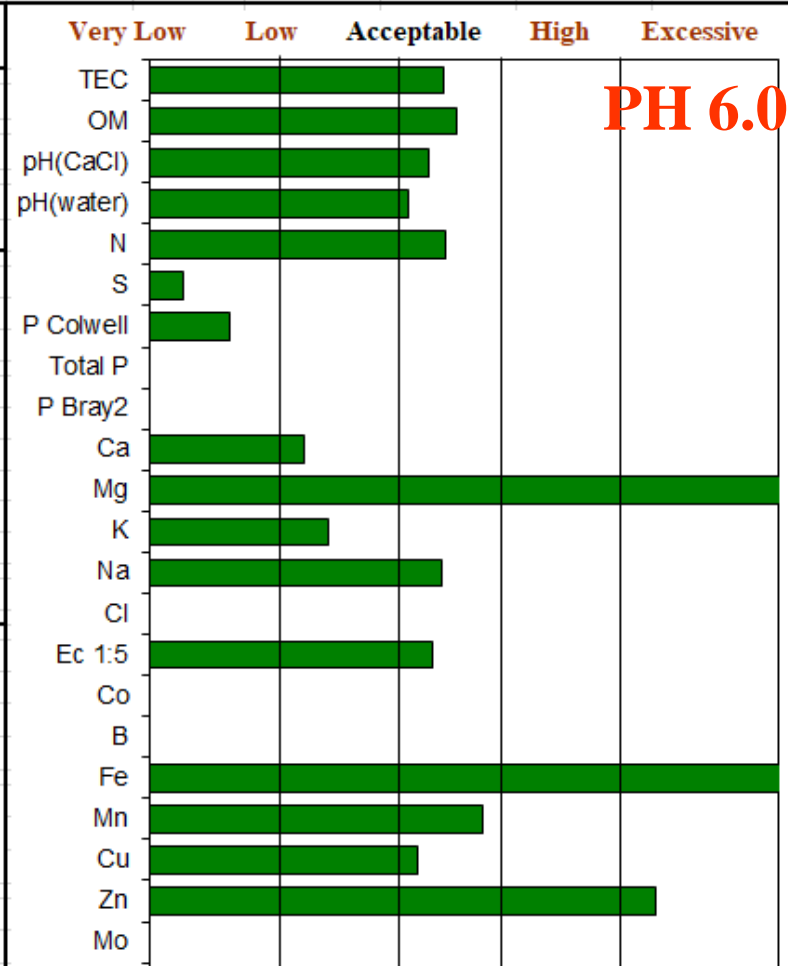
		N	P	K	S	Mg	Ca	
CODE								
	10060	Sulphurgain 15S	-	8.6	-	14.8	-	21.0
	10032	Sulphurgain 20S	-	8.0	-	20.0	-	19.8
	10033	Sulphurgain 30S	-	7.0	-	29.5	-	17.5
	11625	Sulphurgain Pure	-	-	-	90.0	-	-

# Most labs show the % of Ca, Mg, K & Na (Base Saturation percentages)

Data must include a H% or you can add it for your calculations

Control Gregory sites	Lab No.:	Gregory sites	Date:	10-Jul-20
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	Unit	Desired Level	Level Found
Total Exchange Capacity (TEC)		12-25	15.83
Colloidal Organic Matter	%	4.0 - 6.0	4.83
pH (Water)		6.0 - 6.5	6.00
pH CaCl			5.30
<b>Anions</b>			
Nitrogen (N)	kg/ha	90 - 120	99
NO 3	ppm		0.6
NH 3	ppm		1590.0
MCP Sulfur (S)	ppm	40 - 60	5
Total Phosphorus	ppm		0
Phosphorus (Colwell)	ppm	30 - 50	9
Def or Excess Colwell P	Kg/ha		69
Phosphorus (Bray 2)	kg/ha	113	0
Olsen P	ppm	21	
P Buffering Index (PBI)		<100	0
<b>Cations</b>			
Calcium (Ca)	Desired	ppm	kg/ha
	Found	2152	4837
	Deficit	1210	2719
Magnesium (Mg)	Desired	kg/ha	ppm
	Found	285	640
	Deficit	726	1631
Potassium (K)	Desired	kg/ha	ppm
	Found	216	485
			274



Base Saturation %			
Ca:Mg RATIO			5.67
Calcium	% Ca		68.0
Magnesium	% Mg		12.0
Potassium	% K		3.5
Sodium	% Na		1.5
Other Bases	%		3.0
Exchangeable Hydrogen	% H		12.0

See how this pH is constructed  
Ideal list on the left found on the right



# Calculating Ca, Mg, K and Na

We use the following figures

Ca 200

Mg 120

K 390

Na 230

There are two methods that can be used

1/ ppm and 2/ Base Saturation Percentages

Today we will use the simpler ppm method



# PH Chart showing H %

pH(water)

H%

4.2

61.0

4.3

59.0

4.4

57.0

4.5

55.0

4.6

53.0

4.7

51.0

4.8

49.0

4.9

47.0

5.0

44.0

5.1

42.0

5.2

39.0

5.3

36.0

5.4

33.0

5.5

30.0

5.6

27.0

5.7

24.0

5.8

21.0

5.9

18.0

6.0

15.0

6.1

13.5

6.2

12.0

6.3

10.5

6.4

9.0

6.5

7.5

6.6

6.0

6.7

4.5

6.8

3.0

6.9

1.5

7.0

0.0

# PPM Method for Ca

## Ca Desired

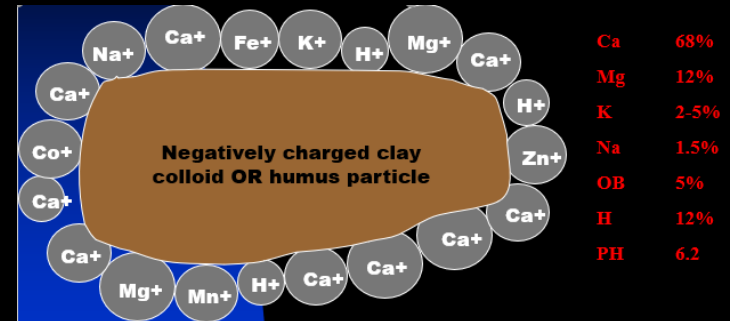
CEC x 200 = total if all exchange sites are occupied by Ca but we only need 68% to be Ca

CEC x 200 x 0.68 = desired ppm

CEC x 200 x % found = found ppm

Difference x 2 = kg Ca required

Then see Ca% of available products = tn required/ha



## Megan's

CEC 35.22 x 200 = 7044 x 0.68 = 4789 x 2 = 9579 x 1.123 = 10758kg/ha desired

CEC 35.22 x 200 = 7044 x 0.49 = 3451 x 2 = 6903 x 1.123 = 7752kg/ha found

Def = 3006 kg of Ca/ha

Good quality lime eg 90% CaCo<sub>3</sub> of which approx 40% is Ca so / 3006 by 400 (400kg of Ca/tn) = 7.5tn/ha of lime required

# Dad's Garden Ca

$CEC\ 39.05 \times 200 = 7810 \times 0.68 \times 2 = 10621 \times 1.123 = 11929\text{kg/ha desired}$

$CEC\ 39.05 \times 200 = 7810 \times 0.79 \times 2 = 12339 \times 1.123 = 13857\text{kg/ha found}$   
Surplus = 1928 kg of Ca/ha

Good quality lime eg 90%  $\text{CaCO}_3$  of which approx 40% is Ca so / 1929 by  
400 (400kg of Ca/tn) = 4.8tn/ha of lime surplus

# Choosing what Ca product to use

**Lime – Calcium Carbonate 39% Ca– Lime suppresses soil Mg, so evaluate Mg level in test**

**Dolomite – Calcium Carbonate 25% Ca, Magnesium Carbonate 11% Mg**

**Apply when both Ca and Mg are low or when Mg is ideal but Ca is required. In NZ soils the majority of Mg deficiency is being created by lime applications without consideration for Mg**

**Gypsum - Calcium Sulphate 22% Ca 18% S – Water soluble. Can be applied to provide sulphur for crops, apply to pasture when the BSP of Ca is greater than 60%**

Gypsum @ 2.5tn/ha suppressing available Sel. Lambs lost use of back legs



# PPM Method for Mg

Megan's soil pH 6.4

CEC 35.22 x 120 = 4226 x 0.12 = 507ppm desired x 2 = 1014 x 1.123 = 1139kg/ha  
desired

CEC 35.22 x 120 = 4226 x 0.333 = 1407ppm found x 2 = 2814 x 1.123 = 3161kg/ha  
found

Surplus = 2022 kg of Mg/ha

Surplus Mg = a wet winter hard setting summer soil. Plants will be shallow  
Rooted.

These soils produce sulphide gas which sterilises the soil, its also a green house gas

High Mg suppresses plant K even when soil K is in ample supply

Foliar K will give the best response

Lime/Ca will displace the surplus Mg changing the soils environment improving the soil  
structure and soil life



**This was a high Mg soil  
where irrigation water  
used to pond.**

**Ca 45% Mg 36%**

**Calcium magnesium  
percentages are now**

**Ca 71% Mg 15%**



# Dad's Garden Mg

CEC 39.05 x 120 = 4608ppm x 0.12 = 562ppm desired x 2 = 1129 x 1.123 = 1263kg/ha desired

CEC 39.05 x 120 = 4608ppm x 0.14 = 656ppm found x 2 = 1469 x 1.123 = 1473kg/ha found

Surplus = 210 kg of Mg/ha

Mg here is only marginally high but plant levels can be suppressed by the excess K.

Apply per 100sq metres as a foliar every 21 days

MgSO<sub>4</sub> (Mag Sulphate) 50gms

Boron, Available as Borax 20gms (Must dissolve in hot water first)

Alternatively find a foliar product containing B

# Dealing with potassium

K desired level varies with the CEC/TEC

As the CEC goes up the desired % of potassium goes down

CEC < 5 desired % 7

< 7 6

< 10 5

< 15 4.5

< 20 4

< 25 3.5

< 30 3

< 50 2

TEC	5	10	15	20
Desired	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm
Ca	600	1360	2040	2720
Mg	121	145.2	217.8	290.4
K	156	195	234	296.4
Na	17.25	34.5	51.75	69



# PPM Method for K

## Megan's soil pH 6.4

$CEC\ 35.22 \times 390 = 13736 \times 0.02 = 278\text{ppm desired} \times 2 = 549 \times 1.123 = 617\text{kg/ha desired}$

$CEC\ 35.22 \times 390 = 13736 \times 0.012 = 165\text{ppm found} \times 2 = 329 \times 1.123 = 370\text{kg/ha found}$

Def = 247kg of K/ha or a total deficiency of 500kg/ha of Sulphate of Potash – This application would be an economic so needs to be address over a period of time

But in this case the high Mg will be suppressing plant available K so we need to wait until the recommended lime is applied and Mg has been displaced.

Foliar K will give the greatest response here. I would normally recommend pasture samples to get a complete picture of what is happening.

High soil Mg can increase the incidence of lameness in stock due to [1] the hard soil [2] Increased plant stress due to shallow root systems = increased plant Nitrates

# Dad's Garden K

$CEC\ 39.05 \times 390 = 15229\text{ppm} \times 0.02 = 304.59\text{ppm desired} \times 2 = 609 \times 1.123 = 648\text{kg/ha desired}$

$CEC\ 39.05 \times 390 = 15229\text{ppm} \times 0.63 = 959\text{ppm found} \times 2 = 1919 \times 1.123 = 2155\text{kg/ha found}$

Surplus = 1507 kg of K/ha

Vegetables will grow well but tend to go seed and can have a bitter taste  
I recommend foliar Magnesium as high K suppresses plant Mg

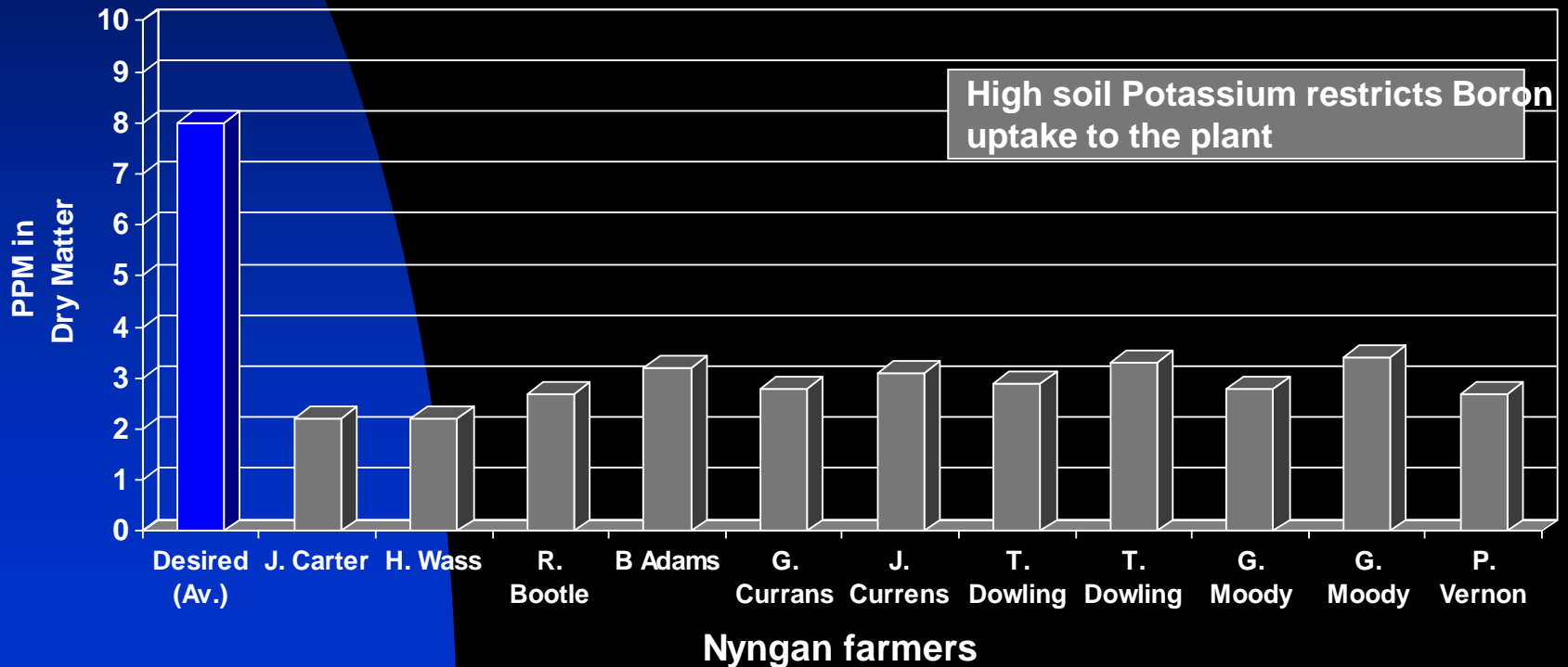
Surplus K is often found in home gardens due mainly to the use of  
compost and animal manures

Composts are great to promote soil biology need also to be evaluated as a  
fertiliser

# Leaf tissue results taken from Red Soil in the Trundle, Tullamore and Nyngan districts 2000

Soil high in potassium with good boron levels

Fig 3. Leaf tissue results - BORON



	Shepparton Waste / Western Compost	Mushroom Compost / Nagambie	Frank Harney / Elmore	Biosys Agribusiness	Weekly Compost	Weekly Compost
Nitrogen (N)						
100						
Wet Tonnes required for 1 Ha	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Other nutrients gained:						
Calcium (Ca)	198	396	329	45	49	72
Sulphur (S)	23	106	31	15	367	337
Nitrogen (N)	171	113	163	59	51	54
Phosphorous (P)	25	40	99	21	32	43
Potassium (K)	126	65	123	66	610	542
Boron	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zinc	2	2	2	3	1	2
0	-	-	-	-	-	-

Calcium (Ca)	Desired	ppm	kg/ha	<b>Base Saturation %</b>	<b>Ca:Mg RATIO</b>	5.67	1.36	
	Found	2071	4653					
	Deficit	1203	2704		Calcium	% Ca	68.0	39.5
Magnesium (Mg)	Desired	219	493		Magnesium	% Mg	12.0	29.1
	Found	532	1195		Potassium	% K	3.5	11.1
	Deficit	kg/ha	0		Sodium	% Na	1.5	0.7
Potassium (K)	Desired	208	467		Other Bases	%	3.0	4.6
	Found	659	1480		Exchangeable Hydrogen	% H	12.0	15.0
	Deficit	kg/ha	0					
Sodium(Na)	Found	12	27					

# Trace elements

Def x 2 X 1.123 = Total of Element required x (100 ÷ percent of Element in product) = amount needed to be applied.

Eg. Dads sample Mn

Desired 25ppm

Found 13ppm

Def 12ppm x 2 = 24 x (100/percentage of Mn in product)

MnSO<sub>4</sub> is 28% Mn, 100/28 = 3.57

24 x 3.57 = 85kg/ha of MnSO<sub>4</sub>

Now decide what is an economic application

Gardeners – source a ground or foliar fertiliser containing Mn

# Trace element application rates

Cobalt – 100 to 200gm/ha of cobalt sulphate(21% Co) for pasture

Boron - 150 to 200gm/ha of B, available as various products

Iron - up to 400kg/ha of Ferrous Sulphate (30% Fe) for pastures other than grazing. Applications can be dangerous for livestock. If recognised Fe deficiency in pastures or fodder crops apply Iron Chelate at recommended rates

Manganese: Low levels adversely affect crop/pasture production, high soil Ca suppresses plant Mn. The young from animals on high Ca soils can be born with bent front legs. Essential for trash decomposition. Foliar applications only on high Ca soils, can be added to soil fertilisers normal Ca soils



Copper – Copper 2.4kg/ha as copper sulphate at 10kg/ha




Zinc - Various products available -

Molybdenum – available as Sodium Molybdate. Maximum soil application 200gm/ha. Naturally increases as soil Ca increases

So once we have calculated all our requirements we need to view local fert companies product lists Organic or Conventional

Remember you may need both solid and foliar products

		N	P	K	S	Mg	Ca
CODE							
	<b>10581</b> Superten	-	9.0	-	10.5	-	22.0
	<b>10754</b> Superten 5K (10% Potash superten)	-	8.1	5.0	9.5	-	19.8
	<b>10755</b> Superten 7K (15% Potash superten)	-	7.7	7.5	8.9	-	18.7
	<b>10757</b> Superten 10K (20% Potash superten)	-	7.2	10.0	8.4	-	17.6
	<b>10759</b> Superten 15K (30% Potash superten)	-	6.3	15.0	7.4	-	15.4
	<b>10761</b> Superten 25K (50% Potash superten)	-	4.5	25.0	5.3	-	11.0

		N	P	K	S	Mg	Ca
CODE							
	<b>10060</b> Sulphurgain 15S	-	8.6	-	14.8	-	21.0
	<b>10032</b> Sulphurgain 20S	-	8.0	-	20.0	-	19.8
	<b>10033</b> Sulphurgain 30S	-	7.0	-	29.5	-	17.5
	<b>11625</b> Sulphurgain Pure	-	-	-	90.0	-	-



Peanuts 300% increased yield



Carrots Showing Boron Deficiency



Mn def



High K suppresses plant Mn

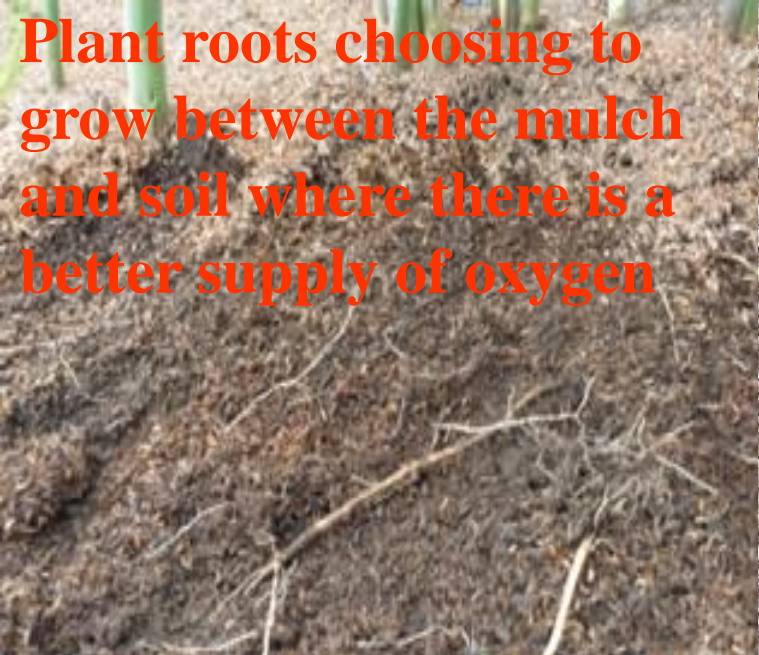


High Mg soil see shallow roots



Copper deficiency increased frost damage





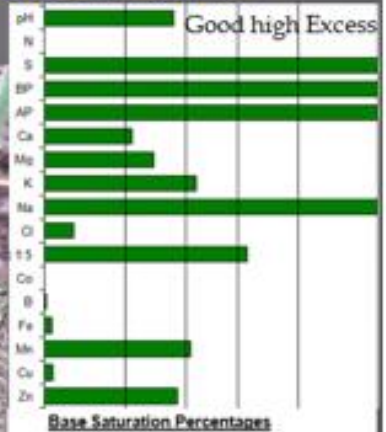
Plant roots choosing to grow between the mulch and soil where there is a better supply of oxygen



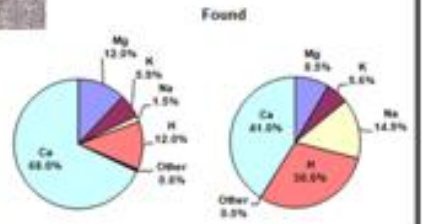
Decomposition taking place  
Nitrogen draw down

mulch should be applied to a maximum depth of 50mm at any one time

There are many contributing factors that inhibit the availability of P



Base Saturation %	比率 Ratio	5.67	4.82
カルシウム Ca	% Ca	68.0	41.00
マグネシウム Mg	% Mg	12.0	8.50
カリウム K	% K	5.9	5.60
ナトリウム Na	% Na	1.5	14.90
PH 5.5			
Exchangeable Hydrogen	% H	12.0	30.00



# Side effects of over supply and poor timing of compost applications



Compost decomposition creating N deficiency reducing fruit size – timing of application is critical.

# IDENTIFY YOUR SOIL TYPE

## the jar test



- 1 Fill a clear glass jar halfway with your soil sample.
- 2 Fill the remaining half with water, leaving 1" of air.
- 3 Attach lid, then shake the jar vigorously until you have broken up any clumps of soil.
- 4 Set the jar aside to rest, undisturbed, overnight.


After 24 hours your jar's contents will have settled into distinct layers:

SAND

SILT

CLAY

By examining the proportions of these layers, you can gain a sense of what type of soil you have, and what you need to add to improve your soil. Here are some examples to use for comparison. The middle jar is ideal soil:



**THE END**