



# Turf Talk

## *High Calcium Lime*

Lime is an old trusted friend, but it is now available in new formulations for faster and better results. New England soils have a naturally low pH, usually in the range of 4.9 to 6.1 (acidic). Turf grass prefers a pH of 6.5 to 6.7 (slightly acidic) with 7 being neutral. As many of us know, liming annually is a common practice to maintain proper soil pH due to New England's high annual rainfall and common vegetation (pine/oak trees) that consistently lowers this measurement.

### *Why is lime important?*

Lime helps fertilizer become more available to the turf roots simply because of how it works in the soil. Chemistry aside, it aids and releases what would otherwise be unavailable nutrients in the soil to help your lawn grow healthier. A simple analogy refers to fertilizer as the shampoo and lime as the conditioner that helps it all work better for the benefit of a thick, healthy lawn.

### *Why is calcium important?*

Many soils are low in calcium, a very important micronutrient for turf growth and soil health. Low calcium levels result in soil compaction and poor texture, inhibiting beneficial bacteria. Calcium also has a vital role in turf health such as disease and insect resistance by thickening cell walls.

### *Out with the old, in with the new...*

After using standard pelletized limestone for years, we decided to use strictly high calcium lime due to numerous benefits, including the total pounds required to achieve results. This type of lime offers distinct advantages to traditional lime in many aspects such as reaction time, benefit of added calcium, and improved seed germination due to an organic compound coating the pellets.

Turf requires a substantial amount of calcium to create a better soil environment for root growth. Our lime is coated with an organic compound that releases naturally occurring calcium already in the soil that adjusts soil pH in weeks versus months. Your lawn will respond faster to other treatments during our short growing season, yielding benefits such as improved color, density, and overall vitality.