

Lime Applications

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 acid rain and common vegetation (coniferous trees) that consistently lower 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 frees up what would otherwise be unavailable nutrients in the soil. A simple analogy refers to fertilizer as the shampoo and lime as the conditioner that helps it all work better for the benefit of the grass.

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.

Solu-Cal

After using standard pelletized limestone for years, we came across a relatively new product called Solu-Cal. This type of lime offers distinct advantages to traditional lime in many aspects such as reaction time, benefit of added calcium, and increased seedling vigor.

Turf needs lots of calcium and because Solu-Cal is a high calcium lime, it not only provides calcium, but it is coated with an organic compound that releases naturally occurring calcium already in the soil. Solu-Cal will adjust soil pH four times faster than conventional pelletized lime (3-4 months), and even faster than crushed limestone (6-8 months). This means your lawn will have more nutrients available to it during our short growing season, time that cannot be wasted waiting for green!

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