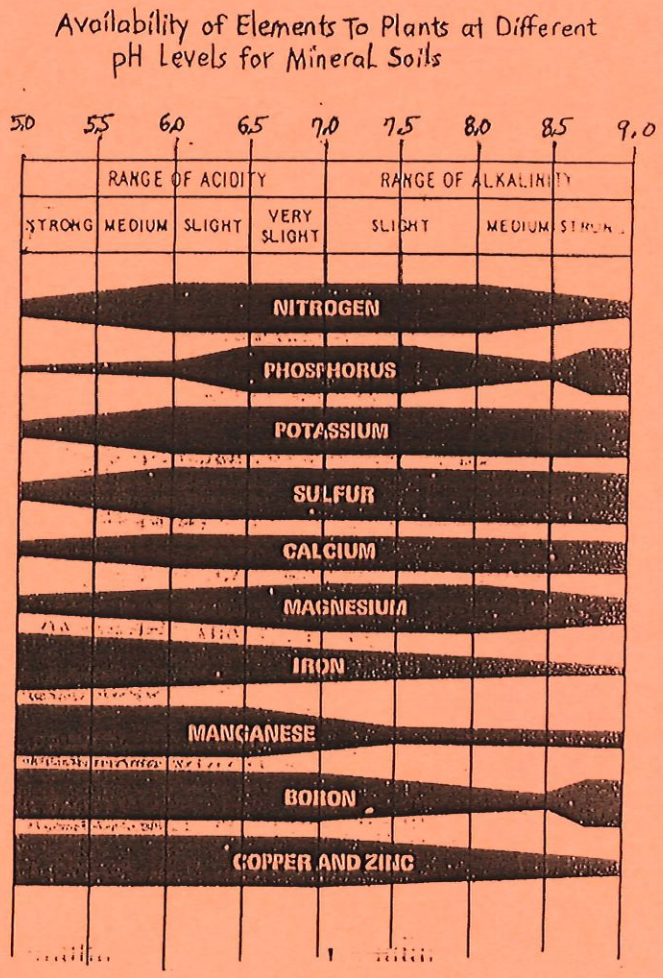
Understanding the Soil Report

The soil test takes the guesswork out of fertilization and is extremely cost effective. It not only eliminates the waste of money spent on unnecessary fertilizer, it also eliminates over-usage of fertilizers and helps to protect the environment.

- Most soil nutrients and microbes are readily available and active when soil pH is at 6.5.
- Limestone is used to neutralize excess acidity in the soil and raise the soil pH. High calcium lime or high magnesium lime should be applied to correct the balance between calcium and magnesium and to adjust the pH to 6.5.



- If my soil report recommends actual units of fertilizer needed for this crop growing year, what type and how much should I apply?
  - A fertilizer bag is labeled with three numbers which indicate the nutrient content (% nitrogen (N), % phosphate (P_2O_5), and % potash (K_2O)
  - For example, a 12-12-12 grade fertilizer indicates that each 100 lbs. contains 12 lbs. of N, 12 lbs. of P_2O_5, and 12 lbs. of K_2O of actual units.
  - There are many kinds of fertilizer with different percentages of N-P_2O_5-K_2O that can be used:
    - Will Increase the pH:
      - Magnesium Oxide = 42% Mg
    - Will NOT Increase the pH:
      - Gypsum = Calcium Sulfate = 22% Calcium and 17% Sulfur
      - Magnesium Sulfate = Ag. Epsom Salt = 10% Mg and 12% Sulfur
  - See your local Ag Supplier for assistance.