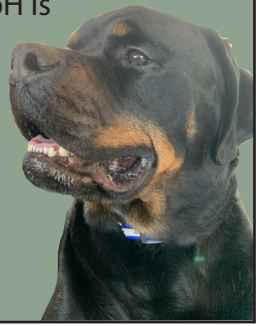
Blue Mountain Minerals

Aglime Quarterly

AG FACT

Most of the crushed stone in our aglime products is finer than 100 Mesh. Which means its about the diameter of a human hair and you don't have to wait until your soil pH is below 6.2 to use it.



What The Flocculation

Sodium from irrigation water and other sources can cause soil dispersion. This happens when clay particles separate from each other and plug soil pores. Dispersed salty soils may have surface crusting which reduces water infiltration, storage and air movement. When water cant soak in it ponds, then evaporates leaving more salts behind.

Good soil structure is critical especially in times of low or use of poor water. Calcium and Magnesium will generally keep soil flocculated because they compete for the same space as sodium on the clay particles. Since Ca and Mg are smaller than sodium they clump the particles together, making soil more stable. The clumps, or aggregates, encourage water infiltration and storage, provide pore spaces for air movement, water drainage and housing for soil biology and worms.

Calcium improves:

- **Physical soil condition.**
- **Microbial activity.**
- **The flow of nutrients into the plant.**
- **Leads to greater root mass.**
- **Plant cell walls and tissue.**

Our Aglime products do more for the soil than just raise the pH. Test your soil and check with your certified crop advisor.

Sources: Clive A Edwards, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Soil and Water Conservation Society. Earthworms: Renewers of Agroecosystems (SA Fall, 1990 v3n1) USDA Soil Quality Indicators 102021

Got Worms?

Earthworms thrive in healthy soil. Worm populations depend on healthy physical and chemical soil properties. Low soil pH can send a worm into diapause, which slows the worm's metabolism and productivity, drastically reducing the beneficial castings they produce. Worm castings are five times richer in available Nitrogen, and seven times richer in available Phosphorus. Earthworms are able to do their best work in soil with a near neutral pH.

Stimulate Microbial Activity: Earthworms alter soil structure by gradually breaking down plant residues, organic matter and microorganisms leaving desirable castings behind.

Provide Channels For Water And Root Growth: Channels made by some species of earthworms can last a very long time, even after the worm has died. Many of these channels are lined with readily available nutrients for the crop. These same channels help improve water penetration and make root growth easier for the plant.

Improve Water Holding Capacity: Worms turn the soil. As they bring organic matter and minerals deeper into the soil profile to consume, they mix and aggregate the soil structure increasing porosity.