



Aglime Quarterly

What's Happening
Unified Wine Symposium
Sacramento
January 27-29, 2015

American Pistachio Growers
Conference
Paradise Point Resort
February 16-18, 2015



Gypsum, The Real Choice

When calcium is needed, gypsum is one of the most widely used calcium soil additives. The two common types of Calcium Sulfates that are readily available are Calcium Sulfate Dihydrate or *Gypsum* and Calcium Sulfate Anhydrite, what CDFA refers to as Gypsum Equivalent.

Chemically, gypsum and anhydrite are closely related, meaning both contain calcium and sulfate. The major difference between the two is that anhydrite does not contain any water molecules. It is the water molecules in gypsum (H₂O) that make the elements available to the plant within hours. Some publications state anhydrite is from 5% to 72% slower to dissolve than gypsum*. The dissolution rates also depend on the chemical make up, type and degree of crystallization, impurities and particle size (fineness) of the material. To maximize the value of your gypsum application choose finely ground gypsum. Smaller



particles cover more surface area and quickly provide nutrients to start improving soil structure. Contact your local agricultural distributor for more details about Blue Mountain Minerals Gypsum in Stockton.

References:

- *University of Arizona, Dr. James Walworth State Soil Specialist, Department of Soil Water and Environmental Science
- **Oregon State University, J. Hart, Fertilizer Guide 52

What's Your Score?

Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (CCE) indicates the quality, or the acid neutralizing value, of an agricultural limestone. The Fineness or particle size, indicates how effectively the crushed limestone will neutralize soil pH. A liming material with a CCE of 100 that is crushed to the size of gravel will probably not change the soil pH in your lifetime.

Oregon requires the use of a lime score. This method takes into account the CCE, fineness, and moisture to determine a numerical expression of quality. The particle size of aglime is the largest indicator of quality. If half of the aglime purchased is coarser than 20 mesh, basically the size of table salt, then half of the aglime purchased is only 30% effective at neutralizing soil pH. This coarse material drops the aglime score to 53 as in the example below.**

Before you buy aglime, ask your PCA for the **Score**.

Aglime	CCE	Fineness	Moisture	Score
A	100%	55%	3%	53
B	100%	95%	3%	94