

Regular application addresses natural acidification.



LINDA FERGUSON

AGRONOMIST, GIPPSLAND BULK SPREADERS



Location Drouin, Victoria

Farming and Horticulture

Product: Agricultural lime

Application: A tonne to the acre / two and a

half tonnes to the hectare

QUALITY LIME ESSENTIAL TO ADDRESS ACIDITY IN GIPPSLAND

Regular applications of quality AgLime are an essential part of successful farming in the Gippsland region of Victoria.

Agronomist Linda Ferguson of Gippsland Bulk Spreaders is based in Drouin, west Gippsland. The area has a high average rainfall of around 1000mm per annum and is home to a number of agriculture industries.

"Industries that
we cover are dairy,
beef, cropping,
horticulture, and
sheep," she says.
"West Gippsland,
being a high rainfall
zone, is naturally
on the acidic side
so there's always
a requirement
for AgLime."

"When your pH
is starting to be
classified as acidic
and aluminium
percentages are going
up, that's when you
make the call to lime."

Regular application addresses natural acidification

Ferguson says many growers apply AgLime every five to seven years to address the natural acidification and ensure a base for healthy plant growth. "A tonne to the acre or two and a half tonnes to the hectare is standard around here. Every now and then there might be three tonnes to the hectare but that is generally in a run-down pasture scenario."

She says ideally AgLime would be cultivated into the ground for an immediate effect, and so many growers might apply the lime leading up to a pasture phase or prior to sowing a new crop.

"When you are planting a new pasture, you are introducing seeds that have got to try and survive and if the environment is not suitable you can't really expect your pasture to thrive."

"The higher the neutralising value, the less AgLime you need to put on. You are going to get good results the first time when you use Aglime."

Lifting pH to a more neutral value

High rainfall and production can lead to acidification so there is a need to apply AgLime to the majority of paddocks on a regular basis to lift the pH to a more neutral value.

"As your pH becomes more neutral, phosphorous becomes more available, as well as other elements such as potassium, molybdenum and copper," explains Ferguson.

She says soils low in aluminium tend to have better root growth, produce stronger pastures and are more water efficient.

Benefits of AgLime on your soil

- Promotes healthy soil structure and root development needed for pasture growth.
- ► Helps balance soil condition, ensuring fertiliser applications are fully utilised.
- Promotes increased dry matter production.



