

# BENEFITS OF LIME

The foundation of a good soil fertility program is correcting soil pH by using lime. Lime does more than just correct soil acidity it also:

- Supplies essential plant calcium
- Makes other essential nutrient more available
- Prevents element like Manganese and Aluminium from being toxic to plant growth

But not all Limestone is created equal! There are 3 very important considerations when selecting an agricultural lime for your property:

1. Calcium Carbonate percentage
2. Particle Sizing or Fineness and
3. Moisture content.

How effective lime is depends on its calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) and the fineness of the grind. Good quality lime has a high calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) percentage. This is the stuff that does all the work.

You will require less good quality lime to achieve the same result of a poor quality lime. AB Limes agricultural lime is consistently over 90%  $\text{CaCO}_3$  – that's the best in Southland!

Particle sizing influences the rate of response from your lime application – finer limestone will neutralise soil acidity faster. You need these fine particles to get the work underway immediately to give you a response in the first 3 months of application. Over 50% of our lime consists of fines (<0.25mm).

The larger particles will give you sustained soil neutralisation over the coming year. If you don't have the fines you could wait up to a year for a response to your application – and if you only apply fines you will need to apply multiple times a year to keep you soil pH where you need it.

Lime rock is quarried with a natural moisture content of around 14%. That means if you buy undried lime, 14% of your purchase is water! We dry our lime to between 2-4% moisture content, so that you get value for your money.