



Liming Advice

Following a soil test analysis, farmers will receive a report outlining the soil's pH and the amount of lime required to improve the pH and in turn its fertility.

Liming land can be a fantastic return on investment on farms with a low soil pH. At sub-optimum pH the uptake of nutrients from soil can be hindered reducing the cost effectiveness of chemical fertiliser. It is suggested that for each €1 spend on lime a return of €6-10 can be achieved. (Teagasc, 2022)

How to spread Lime

Farmers should aim to test soil every 3-5 years and base their lime application rate on the results of the test, you should not exceed 7.5t/ha in a single application. Target to spread lime on 20% of your farm each year and on very acidic soils spread half of the requirement in the 1st year and the remainder in two years' time.

It is important to note that nitrogen loss can occur if spread onto freshly limed soils, so it is best practice to wait seven days to apply lime after spreading urea or slurry and if lime has already been spread wait 3 months before urea or slurry application. If using protected Urea, there is no need for a waiting interval.

Types of Lime available

1. Calcium ground Limestone is the most common as it is fast acting.
2. Magnesium ground Limestone is slower acting but has a higher liming value.
3. Granulated Lime is very reactive and can be used on soil that has an optimum pH where maintenance application is needed.

Note

For soils that have a high molybdenum status which can cause a copper deficiency in animals, it is advisable to target a slightly slower pH of 6-6.2 as above this can increase molybdenum availability.