

AL101 / SOIL AMENDMENT PRACTICE STANDARD

PURPOSE - Soil amendments shall be applied, as needed, to adjust soil pH to the specific range of the crop for optimum availability and utilization of nutrients according to a current soil test.

RESOURCE CONCERN - Improving soil health and reducing erosion through the application of soil amendments is a critical practice in sustainable agriculture and land management. Soil amendments can enhance soil structure, fertility, and water-holding capacity, thereby mitigating erosion and promoting healthier plant growth.

MANAGEMENT - Regularly monitor the soil health, erosion control measures, and plant growth to assess the effectiveness of your amendments. Adjust your practices as needed over time. Application of all nutrients must correspond as closely as practical with plant nutrient uptake. Regular soil testing and ongoing maintenance are crucial for achieving and maintaining healthy soil and erosion control.

REQUIREMENTS - This practice applies to all lands where plant nutrients and soil amendments are applied. Adjust the soil's pH by adding lime (to raise pH) or sulfur (to lower pH) if necessary. Soil test analyses shall be conducted by Auburn University Soil Testing Laboratory or other laboratories that are accredited soil testing laboratories that are accepted in The North American Proficiency Testing Program (Soil Science Society of America) <http://www.naptprogram.org/> program and accepted by ACES.

Lime applications must be within 90% of recommendations of soil test analysis. Limestone must contain at least 90% calcium carbonate equivalent and must be fine enough that no less than 90% will pass through a U.S. Standard No. 10 – Mesh Sieve, nor less than 50% will pass through a Standard No. 60 – Mesh Sieve.