

Michigan Agri Business Association
Soil Fertility Workshop
St. Johns, Michigan
19 March 2015

IPNI
INTERNATIONAL
PLANT NUTRITION
INSTITUTE

Soil Properties and Reactions

Tom Bruulsema, Director, Northeast Region, IPNI

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Formed in 2007, the **International Plant Nutrition Institute** is supported by leading fertilizer manufacturers.

Its mission is to promote scientific information on responsible management of plant nutrition.



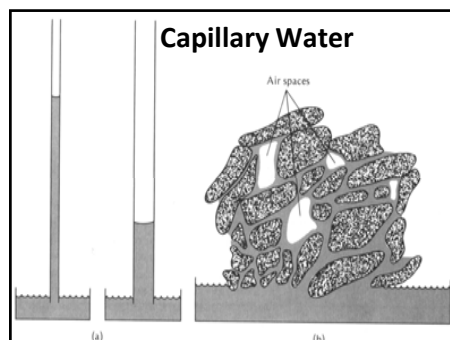
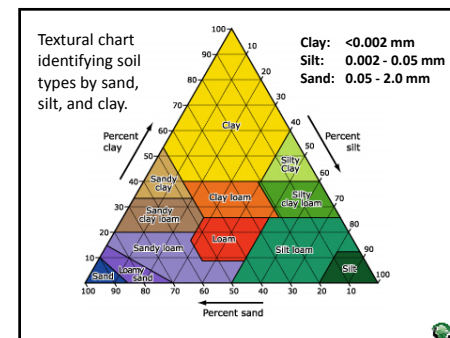
External Factors Control Plant Growth

Influencing a crop's potential

- Air
- Light
- Temperature
- Water
- Nutrients
- Mechanical support

17 ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

C H O
N P K
Ca Mg S
B CL CU FE
MN MO NI ZN



Texture versus Structure

Soil Texture

The proportion of primary particles in various size classes.

- influences CEC, water holding capacity, soil aeration
- may vary with depth
- not usually changeable by management

Soil Structure

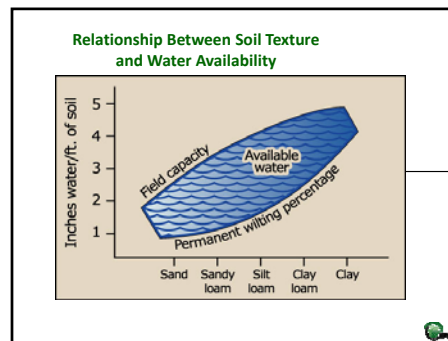
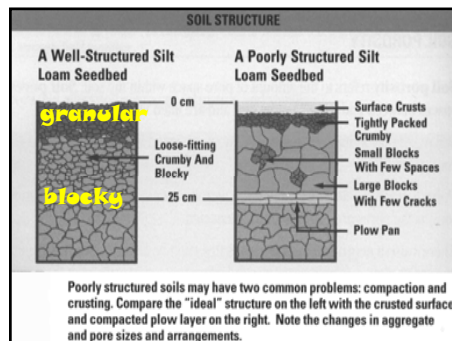
The arrangement of primary soil particles into aggregates (secondary units or peds).

- influences water holding capacity, soil aeration
- varies with depth
- influenced by soil organic matter, texture, compaction, weather
- easily destroyed, difficult to build
- influences nutrient availability

Bulk Density

The weight of soil per unit volume (g/cm³, lb/ft³, t/m³)

- depends on both texture & structure
- clay soils can be heavier or lighter than sandy soils



The Ideal Soil for Crop Production

- Medium texture and organic matter for air and water movement
- Sufficient clay to hold soil moisture reserves
- Deep, permeable subsoil with adequate fertility levels
- Environment for roots to go deep for moisture and nutrients

The acre-furrow slice

660' x 66' x 6" = 24,200 ft³
 If bulk density = 83 lb/ft³
 then one acre has 2,008,600 lb of soil
 (rule of thumb: one acre = 2 million pounds)

One ppm = two pounds per acre

Negatively Charged Colloids Attract Cations

Like poles (charges) repel each other. Unlike poles (charges) are attracted to each other.

Negative Positive

Clay and organic matter particles carry a negative charge. Cations (NH₄⁺, K⁺, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺) have a positive charge.

Cations are held on clay and organic matter particles by magnetic attraction. Unlike poles attract — like poles repel. This is the same principle that holds cations to the clay and organic matter particles.

With a magnet

In the soil

Cation Exchange Capacity

A schematic look at cation exchange

CEC 25: More clay, more positions to hold cations. CEC 5: Low clay content, fewer positions to hold cations.

50 CEC (Heavy clay) — Common CEC Range — 0 CEC (Sand)

Clay and Organic Matter Have Greatest Influence on CEC

Clay	Organic matter
10-150 cmol(+)/kg	200-400 cmol(+)/kg

Organic matter has a higher CEC

1 cmol/kg = 1 meq/100 g

UNDERSTANDING EQUIVALENTS FOR CATION EXCHANGE

Nutrient Element	Atomic Weight	Positive Charges	Equivalent ¹ Weight
H hydrogen	1	1	1
N nitrogen	14	1 (NH ₄ ⁺)	14
Mg magnesium	24	2	12
K potassium	39	1	39
Ca calcium	40	2	20

¹/ atomic weight is the weight in grams of 6x10²³ atoms.
²/ equivalent weight is the weight in grams of 6x10²³ positive charges.

Soil Organic Matter Benefits Soil in Many Ways:

- Improves physical condition
- Increases water infiltration
- Improves soil tilth
- Decreases erosion losses
- Contains plant nutrients
- Increases CEC

Soil Organic Matter and Available Water Capacity

Percent SOM	Inches of Water/One Foot of Soil		
	Sand	Silt Loam	Silty Clay Loam
1	1.0	1.9	1.4
2	1.4	2.4	1.8
3	1.7	2.9	2.2
4	2.1	3.5	2.6
5	2.5	4.0	3.0

Berman Hudson
Journal Soil and Water Conservation 49(2) 189-194
March-April 1994
Summarized by:
Dr. Mark Liebig, ARS, Mandan, ND
Hal Weiler, Soil Scientist, NRCS, Bismarck, ND

The National Center for Appropriate Technology • www.nccat.org • 1-800-275-6228 (1-800-ASK-NCCAT)

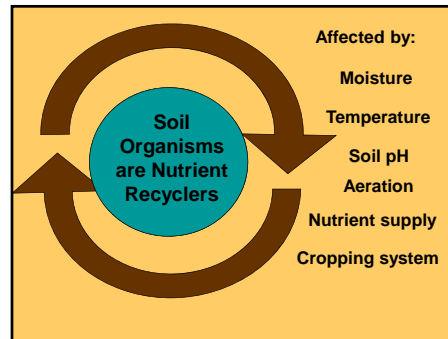
Average corn yields (1989-1993) and soil organic matter levels for a Brookston clay loam soil under different management practices since 1959.

Management Practice	Fertilization N-P ₂ O ₅ -K ₂ O (lb/A)	Grain Yield bu/A	Organic Matter %
Continuous corn	115-70-30	104	3.6
Continuous corn	0-0-0	13	3.1
Rotation corn	115-70-30	145	4.4
Rotation corn	0-0-0	65	3.3

Gregorich & Drury, 1996

20 August 2003

Continuous corn without
fertilizer since 1959



Nitrogen-fixing Bacteria

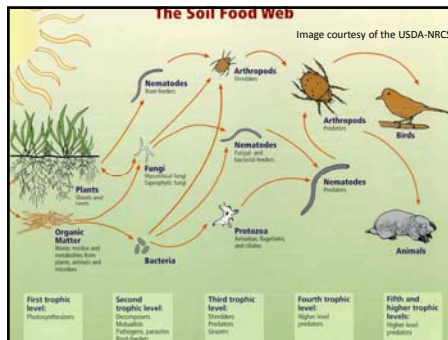
Nodules formed where *Rhizobium* bacteria infected soybean roots.



Image courtesy of the USDA-NRCS.

The Soil Food Web

Image courtesy of the USDA-NRCS.



Soil organism	Benefit to plant growth or soil health
Mites, collembola	Break up larger pieces of organic matter, regulate microbial populations (predators of fungi and microfauna), nutrient turnover
Earthworms, termites, ants, beetles	Create biopores, fragment organic residues, increase water infiltration and soil porosity Redistribute SOM and mix it with soil particles
Arbuscular mycorrhiza, rhizobium, algae,	Increase nutrient availability and capture, some have symbiotic relationship with plant roots enable crops or pastures to obtain additional nutrients
Fungi, bacteria	Break down SOM, cycle nutrients, bind soil particles, compete with disease organisms for food sources. May be free living or symbiotic. Chemical degradation, bio-filters.
Trichoderma, nematode spp.	Some attack harmful pathogens, regulate microbial populations, mineralize nutrients
Actinomycetes	Specific wax degrading bacteria able to degrade the organic waxes that cause non-wetting, others are symbiotic with roots and increase nutrient availability and uptake

Source: Soil Science Society of America

Night crawlers and tillage



Without *Lumbricus terrestris*

With *Lumbricus terrestris*

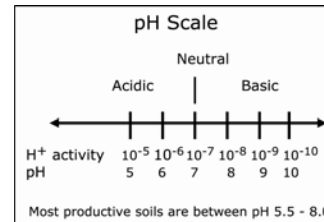
Image courtesy of the USDA-NRCS.



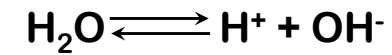
Soil pH describes a soil's relative acidity or basicity (alkalinity)



WHAT IS SOIL PH?



chemical equilibrium of water



$$[\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-14}$$



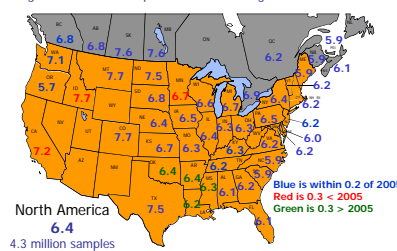
Soil pH Measures Hydrogen Ion Activity in Soil Water

Soil pH	Magnitude of the Acidity/Basicity compared to pH 7.0
9.0	100x
8.0	10x
7.0	Neutral
6.0	10x
5.0	100x
4.0	1,000x

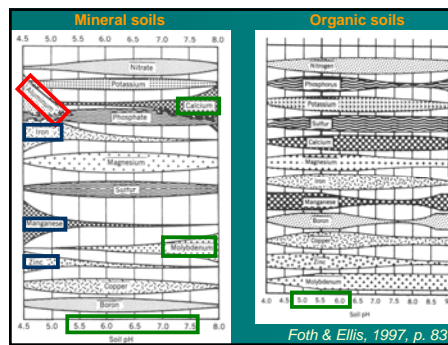
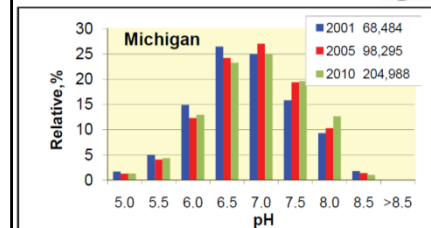
Basicity

Acidity

Figure 11. Median soil pH in 2010 and change from 2005.



Soil pH Distribution



WHY ACID SOILS SHOULD BE LIMED



- Increases CEC in variable charge soils
- Increases availability of several nutrients
- Supplies Ca and Mg to plants
- Improves symbiotic N fixation in legumes
- Improve crop yields
- Reduces Al and other metal toxicities
- Improves the physical condition of the soil
- Stimulates microbial activity in the soil



Fertilizer N & Acidity

Pounds calcium carbonate per pound of N:

- AN, AA, UAN, urea 1.8
- ammonium sulfate 3.6 - 5.2
- MAP 5.4
- DAP 3.6
- KNO₃ -2.0

HOW LIME REDUCES SOIL ACIDITY



- Ca²⁺ ions from aglime replaces H⁺ and Al³⁺ at the exchange sites. The Al³⁺ reacts with water releasing H⁺...

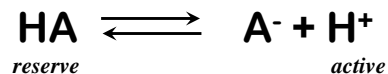
$$\text{Al}^{3+} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \longrightarrow \text{Al}(\text{OH}^{2+}) + \text{H}^+$$
- Carbonate ions (CO₃²⁻) from aglime react in the soil solution, creating excess OH⁻ (hydroxyl) ions which combine with H⁺ ions forming water

$$\text{CO}_3^{2-} + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{HCO}_3^-; \text{HCO}_3^- + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2$$
- The pH increases because the acidity source (H⁺) has been reduced

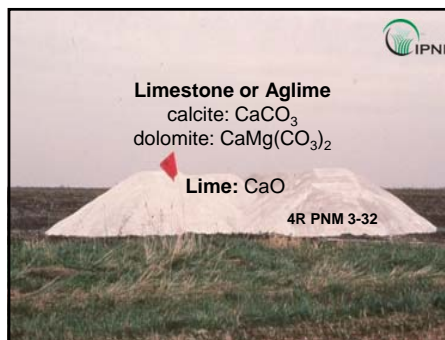
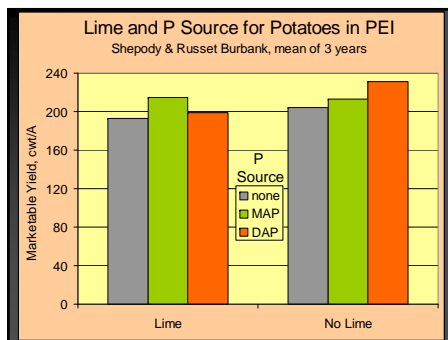


4R PNM 3-32

Reserve vs. Active Acidity

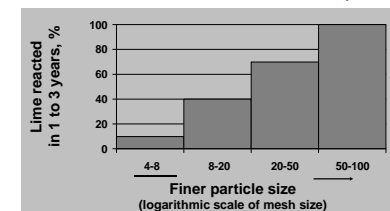


- pH: whether to lime
- buffer pH: amount of lime



Selecting a Liming Material:

- neutralizing value (CCE) and fineness
- Particle Size Determines Lime Reactivity



RELATIVE NEUTRALIZING VALUES OF SOME COMMON LIMING MATERIALS



Liming material	Relative neutralizing value*, %	Liming material	Relative neutralizing value*, %
Calcium carbonate	100	Burned oyster shells	90-110
Dolomitic lime	95-108	Hydrated lime	120-135
Calcitic lime	85-100	Basic slag	50-70
Baked oyster shells	80-90	Wood ashes	40-80
Marl	50-90	Gypsum	None
Burned lime (CaO)	150-179	By-products	Variable

*Relative neutralizing value is used interchangeably here with calcium carbonate equivalent

Key Points – Soil properties and pH

- Soil productivity involves nutrients, water, weather, structure, and biology
- Texture and organic matter influence water holding capacity
- Organic matter and CEC influence nutrient holding capacity
- Soil pH influences nutrient form and availability



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Phosphorus

Tom Bruulsema, Director, Northeast Region, IPNI

Twitter
twitter.com/IPNINutrition



Mining phosphate rock

World Phosphate Rock Reserves and Resources

Country	2011-12 Production Mt	Reserves Mt	Reserve Life Years
Morocco	28	50,000	1790
South Africa	2.5	1,500	600
Jordan	6.5	1,500	230
Russia	11	1,300	115
USA	29	1,400	49
China	85	3,700	43
World Total	204	67,000	328

Source: USGS, 2013

"No matter how much phosphate rock exists, it is a non-renewable resource" IFDC, 2010



Ancaster, Ontario – 26 June 2009 – tilled corn
SOIL EROSION: LOSS OF PARTICULATE P



Northwest of Guelph, Ontario – 6 April 2014 – no-till
SURFACE RUNOFF: DISSOLVED P? INVISIBLE

Crops Take Up Large Quantities of Phosphorus

Crop	Yield level/A	Uptake -----P ₂ O ₅ , lb/A-----	Removal
Alfalfa	5 ton	80	80
Corn	150 bu	90	60
Soybeans	50 bu	50	40
Wheat	75 bu	55	45
Potatoes	400 cwt	70	50

4R PNM 4-2

Phosphorus is Taken Up by Plants as:

- primary orthophosphate ion: H₂PO₄⁻ (pH < 7.0)
- secondary orthophosphate ion: HPO₄²⁻ (pH > 7.0)
- The form most common is a function of soil pH – both equally present at neutral



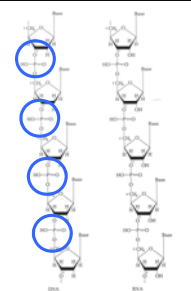
Seeds Contain More Phosphorus than Other Plant Parts

Crop	Plant part	P content, %
Corn	Grain	0.22
	Stover	0.17
Soybeans	Grain	0.42
	Straw	0.18
Wheat	Grain	0.42
	Straw	0.12
Potatoes	Petioles	0.2-0.4
	Tubers	0.18-0.25

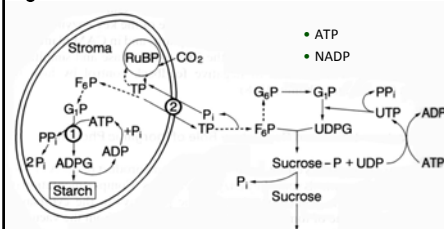
P

Structure of DNA

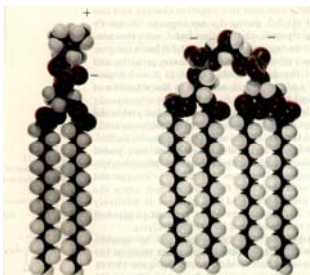
A phosphate molecule links each & every base in the DNA molecule



Photosynthesis & Respiration



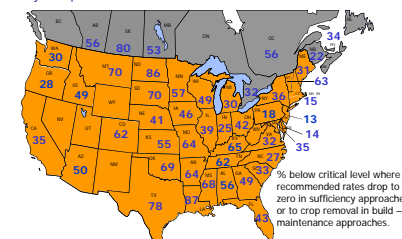
P



- Photosynthesis and respiration
- Energy storage and transfer
- Cell division and enlargement
- Early root formation and growth
- Improves quality
- Vital to seed formation
- Transfer of hereditary traits (DNA)



Figure 3. Percent of samples testing below critical levels for P for major crops in 2010.



Michigan

Bray P1 equivalent, ppm	2001 67,927	2005 98,297	2010 189,915
5	0	0	0
10	1	1	1
15	2	2	2
20	3	3	3
25	4	4	4
30	5	5	5
35	6	6	6
40	7	7	7
45	8	8	8
50	9	9	9
>50	48	48	48

Nitrogen
Movement in surface soil profile
1 in. N/L
Point of placement
Nitrogen location 17 days

Phosphorus
Movement in surface soil profile
1 in. P/L
Point of placement
Phosphorus location 17 days

Potassium
Movement in surface soil profile
1 in. K/L
Point of placement
Potassium location 17 days



- Soil pH
- Amount of clay
- Type of clay
- Time of application
- Crop grown
- Temperature
- Mycorrhizae**

- Aeration
- Moisture
- Compaction
- Other nutrients
- Soil P status
- Placement

Graph showing the distribution of phosphorus in soil as a function of soil pH. The y-axis is 'Distribution (%)' from 0 to 100. The x-axis is 'Soil pH' from 0 to 8. The graph is divided into five regions:

- Fixation by Fe, Al & Mn (pH 0-4, hatched)
- Fixation by hydrous oxides of Al and Fe (pH 4-6, stippled)
- Adsorbed to clay (pH 6-7, diagonal lines)
- Calcium phosphates (pH 7-8, white)
- Available P (pH 0-8, green area at the bottom)

Source: NC Brady, 1990. The Nature and Properties of Soils.

- "Fungus-root" – make glomalin
- Extend to absorb P from more soil
- Decline with increasing P fertility, fallow

Fertilizer P ₂ O ₅ Rate, lb/A	Hyphal Density (m/g)	Corn grain yield, bu/A
0	1.04	107
55	0.91	118
110	0.68	125

Mean of 2 years, 1997/98, Quebec. Soil test P (Mehlich 3) was 65 to 87 kg/ha. Adapted from Liu et al., 2003

Randall and Hoeft, 1988



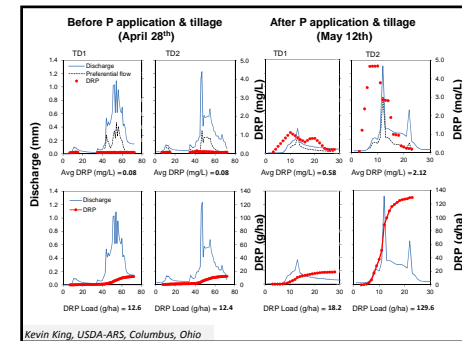
Effect of tillage on preferential flow and phosphorus transport

Soil type: Silt loam
Tile depth: 3 ft
Soil test P: 30 ppm Mehlich-3P
Tillage: No-till

2014 management
 May 6th – Applied 175 lb/ac of MAP
 May 8th – Tilled field TD1 (disc)
 (TD2 remained no-till)

Study Objective
 Compare P transport before and after tillage and between tilled and no-till fields

Kevin King, USDA-ARS, Columbus, Ohio



Practice	Advantages	Limitations
S – MAP or DAP R – rotation removal T – fall P – broadcast	Minimal soil compaction Allows timely planting in spring Low-cost fertilizer form Low cost of application	Risk of elevated P in runoff in late fall and winter Low N use efficiency
S – MAP or DAP R – rotation removal T – spring P – broadcast	Minimal soil compaction Better N use efficiency Low-cost fertilizer form Low cost of application	Risk of elevated P in spring runoff before incorporation Potential to delay planting Retailer spring delivery capacity
S – MAP or fluid APP R – one crop removal T – spring P – 2" x 2" band	Low risk of elevated P in runoff Most efficient use of N Less soil P stratification	Cost and practicality Potential to delay planting Retailer delivery capacity Cost of fluid versus granular P
S – MAP or DAP R – rotation removal T – fall P – banded in zone	Low risk of elevated P in runoff Maintain residue cover Allows timely planting in spring Less soil P stratification	Cost of RTK GPS guidance Cost of new equipment More time required than broadcast
S – fluid APP P – point injection	As above	As above, plus cost of fluid versus granular P

Choice of practice considers both advantages and limitations.

Fall Strip-till Banding

- Puts the P in the soil
- Keeps residue on the soil
- RTK GPS for precision planting

Greg LaBarge, Ohio State University Extension

Seed Placement: Small Amounts, Liquid or Granular

P ₂ O ₅ rate, lb/A	Corn yield, ¹ bu/A	Corn yield, ² bu/A	
0	137	Rate, lb P ₂ O ₅ /A	Granular MAP, 13-52-0
5	151	Liquid ³	
10	146	0	145
21	148	10	156
		21	152

¹ Mean of two hybrids at each of two Ontario sites; seed-placed 8-19-3
² Mean of three Ontario sites
³ Mean of three products: 10-34-0, 6-24-6, 8-19-3

Source: Lauzon et al., 1995

N Improves P Uptake

- When applied with N, P is more available to plants
- Ammonium (NH₄⁺) N has significant effects on P availability and absorption.
- In high concentrations, NH₄⁺-N slows P fixation reactions
- Ammonium absorption helps maintain an acidic condition at the root surface, improving P absorption

The Best Combination(s):

Broadcasting

- to build or maintain soil fertility levels

& Banding

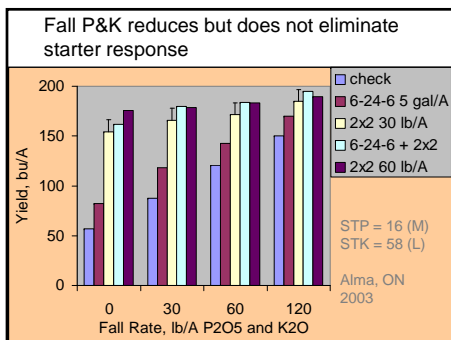
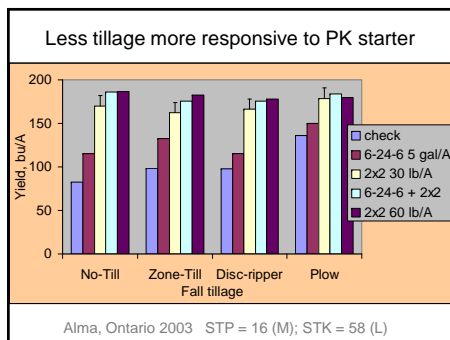
- 2x2, or seed-placed, or both
- to optimize yield and profits

Ontario Tillage x Starter Fertilizer Studies

Alma, Amstar, Wellington, 2001-2003
 Loam to silt loam soils

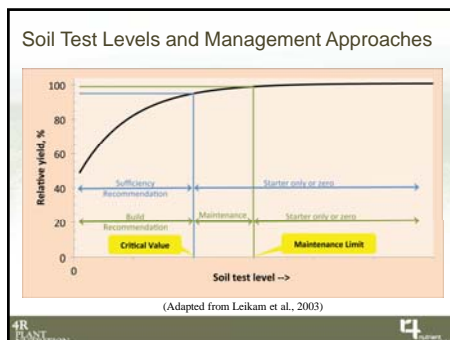

Bill Deen, Greg Stewart, John Lauzon
 Tillage x Fall Fertilizer x Spring Starter Experiment
 4 x 4 x 5 factorial

Plots 10' wide by 70' long
 All plots received 30 lb/A starter N as UAN



Tillage x Starter

- Alma 2003 was one of 9 site-years
- 8 of the 9 showed far smaller responses
- 5 more showed starter NP benefits in no-till but not in plowed soil
- 3 with high soil tests showed no response to applied fertilizer

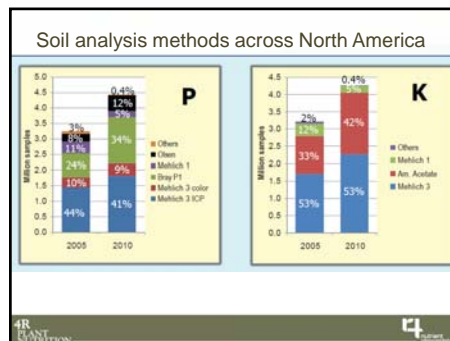


Test	Extractants	pH	Ratio, solution:soil	Extraction time, min
Olsen P	0.5M sodium bicarbonate	8.5	20	30
Bray P1	0.03M ammonium fluoride + 0.025M hydrochloric acid	2.5	7	1
Mehlich-3 P	0.2M acetic acid, 0.25M ammonium nitrate, 0.015M ammonium fluoride, 0.13M nitric acid, 0.001M EDTA	2.5	10	5
Colwell P	0.5M sodium bicarbonate	8.5	100	960
Morgan	0.54 M acetic acid + 0.72 M sodium acetate	4.8	5	15
Exchange resins	Mixture of anionic and cationic resins			

Different P soil tests give widely different #s

Phosphorus									
Ammonium									
Bicarbonate-DTPA	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17
Bray and Kurtz P1	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45
Bray and Kurtz P2	0-9	10-18	19-27	28-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60
Kelowna, Modified	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45
Lancaster P	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45
Mehlich 1 P	0-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27
Mehlich 2 P	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45
Mehlich 3 P (colorimetric)	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45
Mehlich 3 P (ICP)	0-9	10-18	19-27	28-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60
Morgan, Cornell	0-1	0.8-1.3	2.4-3.6	3.7-4.4	4.5-5.3	5.4-6.2	6.3-7.1	7.2-8.0	8.1-9.0
Morgan, Davidson	0-2.5	2.6-3.4	3.5-4.9	5.0-6.3	6.4-7.1	7.2-8.0	8.1-9.0	9.1-10.0	10.1-11.0
Olsen P									
(soilud bicarbonate)	0-3	4-7	8-11	12-15	16-19	20-23	24-27	28-31	32-35

**These equivalences are not recommended for the purpose of determining appropriate rates to apply.*

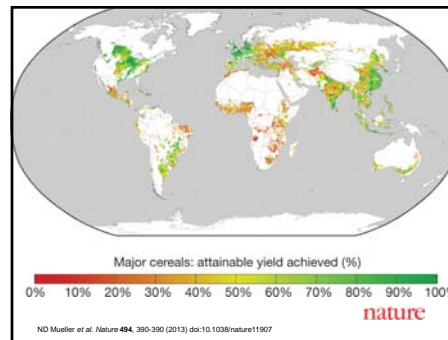
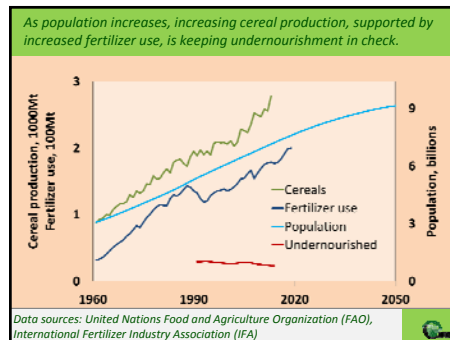


Summary – Phosphorus

- **Cycling:** from mine to soil to crop to soil to sea
- **Availability:** mineral phase precipitation and sorption control solubility
- **Movement:** Slow, retained in soil matrix. Fast, in surface runoff and macropores.
- **Sources:** Mined minerals, manures, biosolids, derived products (e.g. struvite)
- **Management:** source, rate, time and place

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Concept

4R Plant Nutrition Manual
focusing on
Chapters 1, 2 & 9



Global Eutrophication Challenges

World Hypoxic and Eutrophic Coastal Areas

We have a Problem!

Source: Russ Gibson, NPS Program Manager, Ohio EPA

The New York Times
March 14, 2013
Algae bloom
Lake Erie 2011

Plant nutrient environmental impacts:

Benefits

- more plant biomass, roots and shoots
- quicker ground cover
- higher soil organic matter (C storage)
- spare land for nature

Risks

- nitrate (NO_3^-) in drinking water
- eutrophication (N, P) – hypoxia, biodiversity loss
- air quality – ammonia, $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, and smog
- nitrous oxide (N_2O) emission
- greenhouse gases from manufacture & transport

UN Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030

END POVERTY

- Building on the 8 Millennium Development Goals
- Open Working Group proposal July 2014 – 17 goals
- Achieving food security will involve fertilizers; achieving it sustainably will require better nutrient use efficiency (NUE)
- SDSN goals and indicators – more specifically addressing nutrients and NUE

UN Welcome to the United Nations. It's your world.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL NETWORK FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

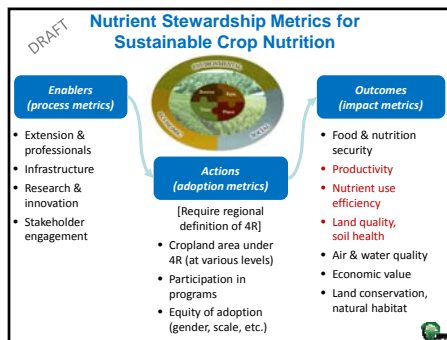
4R: “right” means sustainable

Field to Market®
The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture

Walmart
How to Make a Difference - Fertilizer optimization

U.S. FERTILIZER ROUND TABLE

4R PLANT NUTRITION



Examples of Key Scientific Principles

	The Four Rights (4Rs)			
	Source	Rate	Time	Place
Key Scientific Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure balanced supply of nutrients • Suit soil properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess nutrient supply from all sources • Assess plant demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess dynamics of crop uptake and soil supply • Determine timing of loss risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize crop rooting patterns • Manage spatial variability

• Chapters 3-6 for greater detail

4R PLANT NUTRITION

Equal attention to all 4Rs

- Balance attention to all 4Rs
- Rate: easily overemphasized
- Source, Time, Place: often require major changes and investments

4R PLANT NUTRITION

Stakeholders have a say on performance indicators

- Stakeholders define goals
- Indicators relate to goals
- Producers choose practices

4R PLANT NUTRITION

Producers choose practices

- Practices selected to suit local site-specific soil, weather, and crop conditions
- Conditions may change even on the day of application
- Local decisions preferred

4R PLANT NUTRITION

4R Nutrient Stewardship Plans

The plans document progress toward sustainability goals, with two principal purposes

- Recording all crop management practices relevant to plant nutrition
- Tracking performance of implemented practices

4R PLANT NUTRITION

Managing Environmental Impacts of N

- Aboveground plant uptake of applied N in the growing season of application is usually between 30 and 70%
- Site-specific 4R Nutrient Stewardship can lead to:
 - Improved recovery of N by plants from the soil
 - Reduced N losses to the environment

but...

4R PLANT NUTRITION

Managing Environmental Impacts of N

...requires in-depth knowledge of

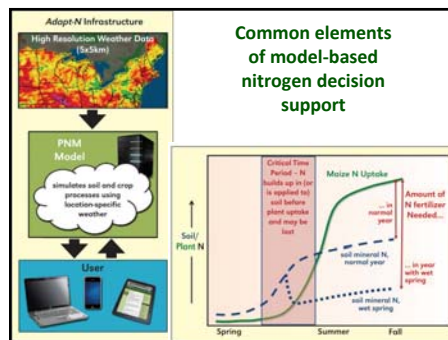
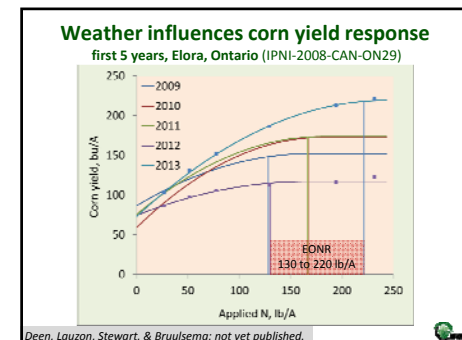
- fertilizer N sources
- soil characteristics and properties
- weather conditions (moisture, temperature)
- cropping system nutrient demands and balances
- the complexity of the N cycle

and

- water management and irrigation efficiency

Many Paths to Choose in Improving N Use Efficiency

- Improved crop genetics
- Newer fertilizer technologies
- Better timing and split applications, where appropriate
- Advances in fertilizer application technologies – VRA, GPS, GIS
- PSNT
- Adapting N recommendations for weather



Potential 4R Corn Nitrogen Practice Definitions

Level	Source	Rate	Time	Place
Basic	Guaranteed or known analysis	Rate based on LGU or adaptive management	Spring; not on frozen soil	Broadcast & incorporated, injected or subsurface band
Intermediate	+ with inhibitors if surface applied	+	+ Split application, or enhanced-efficiency source	+, or sidedress, with inhibitors if surface applied
Advanced	++	+ and using tools such as crop sensors, PSNT, Adapt-N or models	+	++

4R practices need regional, evidence-based definition

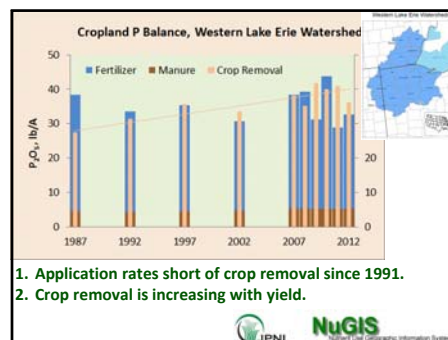
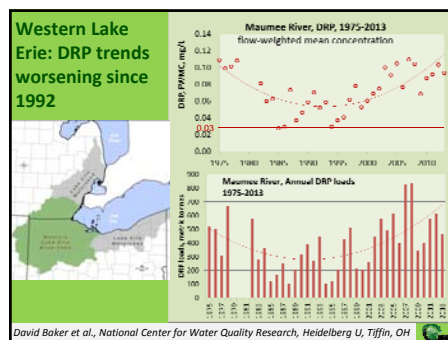
International Joint Commission (IJC)
More than a century of cooperation
Protecting Shared Resources

The 4R Approach: One Tool to Control Algae-Choked Lake Erie
IJC admin | 2014/09/04

By Nicole Fiantz
IJC intern, University of Waterloo

A Balanced Diet for Lake Erie
Reducing Phosphorus Loadings and Harmful Algal Blooms
A Report of the Lake Erie Phosphorus Policy Review
Report 2013

The IJC supports 4R... but calls for mandatory measures.



Developing 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification



4R Certification for Agri-retailers in the Lake Erie Watershed

Key criteria:

- Recommendations are consistent with the land-grant university, allowing for adaptive management.
- A certified professional reviews the nutrient recommendations made for the grower customers.
- Source:** All sources of fertilizer are accounted for in the nutrient recommendation.
- Rate:** Soil tests are less than four years old; application equipment is calibrated annually.
- Time:** Avoids spreading on frozen or snow-covered fields; no broadcast prior to a predicted heavy rainfall.
- Place:** Phosphorus is applied below the soil surface whenever possible; nutrient application setbacks are followed in sensitive areas.

<http://4Rcertified.org/>




Certified Crop Adviser Specialties


Proposed:

- **Sustainability Specialty**
 - Supported by United Soybean Board
 1. Communicating Sustainability
 2. Resources & Environmental Stewardship
 3. Value Chain
 - Modules and Exams coming in 2016
- **4R Nutrient Management Specialty**
 - Involves CCA representatives from Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan
 - basic knowledge standard; what USDA-NRCS and other view as needed to be certified in preparing Nutrient Management Plans






4R Research Fund *environmental, social, economic impacts*

- Established by the fertilizer industry to support research on 4R sustainability impact across North America – aiming for \$7M over 5 years.
- **Meta-analysis:** 5 projects, 2014-2015.
- **Measurement:** 4 projects, 2014-2019.
- For additional information: www.ipni.net




Summary – 4R Practices

- Implement the principles to optimize management
- Determine appropriate sustainability goals
- Choose metrics to monitor progress
- Manage by nutrient management plan
- Track nutrient balances
- Connect your metrics to a sustainability reporting system


Thank You

nane.ipni.net