



IMPORTANCE OF SOIL pH IN CROP GROWTH

What is soil pH?

Soil pH, in simple terms, is a measure of acidity and alkalinity in soils. It is one of the most important chemical properties of soil and determines the status of soil's physical health, availability of nutrients, soil microorganism and their activity and so on. Overall, it is "pulse" of soil.

Agronomically, soil pH is the first parameter to be attended to in nutrition management. But this criticality is seldom understood by the extension workers and the "agronomists".

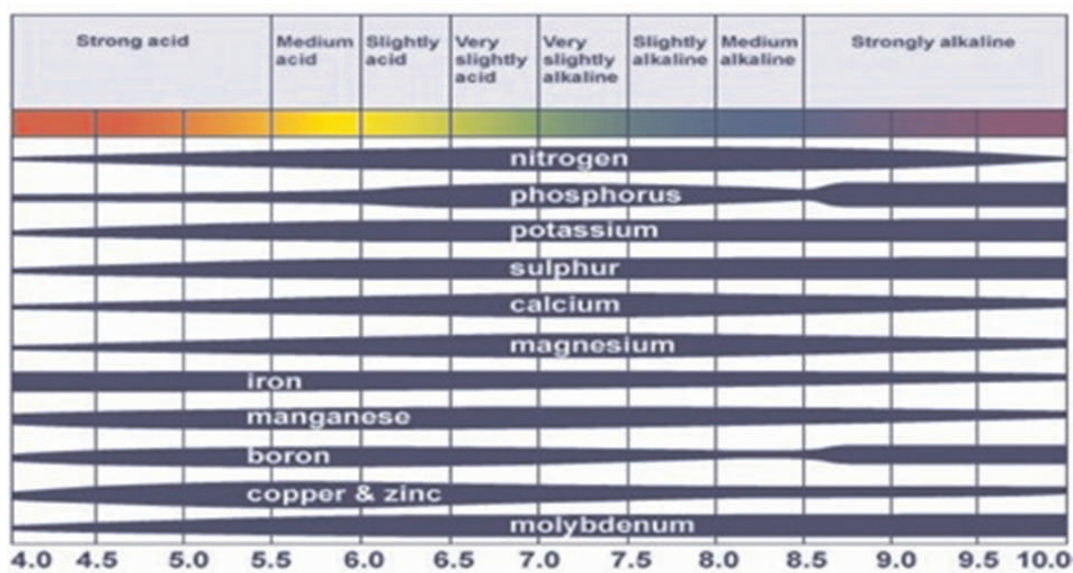
What is the unit of measurement of soil pH?

pH does not have any unit and is represented as a numerical on a scale of 0 to 14.

What is significance of soil pH in agriculture?

Soil pH is an indicator of nutrient availability as depicted below:

Also, microorganisms that are very essential in the nutrient management will also be seriously impacted by the unfavourable pH levels.



How soil pH is measured?

Soil pH is measured in the laboratory by using pH Meter. However, in the field for general agronomic advisory, portable pH meters can be used. Method of sampling and preparation for these two methods will be advised by the agronomic advisors.

How unfavourable pH can be corrected?

To alter the pH to the desired level, soil amendments are available for increasing pH in acidic soils (viz., dolomite, calcite etc), reducing pH in alkaline soils (gypsum, acidifying fertilizers, specific acids in case of strong alkaline). Also, there are specific amendments available to amend calcareous soils.

Which laboratory or laboratories can take up soil pH analysis?

Our own NABL accredited Diagnostic Laboratory in Pune carries out analysis of soil pH and other soil parameters.

As a part of our customer support, we should encourage all our farmers for soil testing.