

SOIL pH

- Soils are sometimes referred to as “sour” or acidic, neutral or alkaline.
- The degree of acidity and alkalinity is measured using the pH scale.
- The pH of a soil is measured in units which run on a scale from 0-14.
- A neutral pH is 7.
- Alkaline soils have a high pH of 9 or 10.
- Acidic soils have a low pH of 4-5.5
- Most turfgrasses grow best within a pH between 6 and 7.5
- Low pH is corrected by applying the alkaline material, lime, which increases the pH.
- Correct pH is critical to plant growth.
- The pH influences plant nutrient uptake, fertiliser efficiency and desirable soil microbial activity.
- Lawns suffering pH problems tend to be thin, weak and often support moss growth
- Moss growth is due mostly to the lack of competition strength from healthy turfgrass.
- Soil pH can be tested with a soil pH meter.
- If the meter indicates a pH problem, soil samples should be sent to a soils lab for verification of the pH level
- Soil testing labs will return a soil pH level for recommended corrective materials and rates (*contact your local Weed Man team for more information*).
- Soil pH affects availability of nutrients, readily available nutrients - pH level.

