

**FERTILITY
MANAGEMENT OF
SAND-BASED
SYSTEMS**

**NICK CHRISTIANS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**





FUNDAMENTALS OF
TURFGRASS
MANAGEMENT

FOURTH EDITION

NICK CHRISTIANS

IOWA TURFGRASS BLOG

iaturf.blogspot.com

BASIC PRINCIPLES AND TERMINOLOGY

FIRST THREE LINES FILLED WITH INFORMATION

CEC

pH

BUFFER pH

CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY (CEC)

**THE ABILITY TO
EXCHANGE CATIONS**

ELEMENT

SYMBOL

CATION

Hydrogen

H

H^+

Calcium

Ca

Ca^{++}

Magnesium

Mg

Mg^{++}

Potassium

K

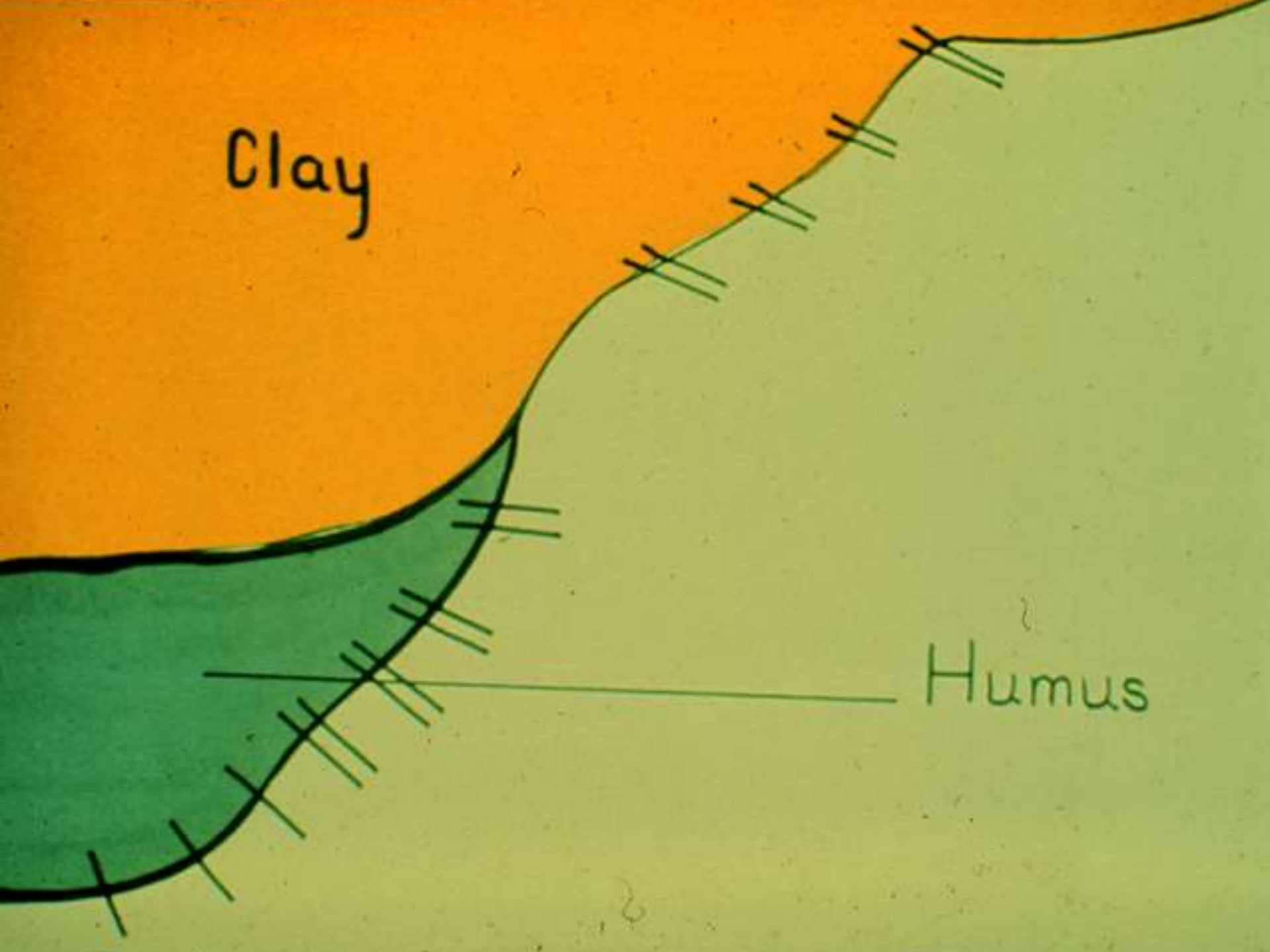
K^+

Sodium

Na

Na^+

Clay



Humus



CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY

SOIL TYPE

- SAND
- CLAY
- ORGANIC MATTER
- CLAY LOAM SOIL
- SAND-BASED ROOT ZONE

meq/100g

- <1 - 8
- 80 - 120
- 150 – 500
- 25 – 30
- <1 - 14

CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY

1 milliequivalent (meq)

6.02×10^{20}

602,000,000,000,000,000,000

CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY

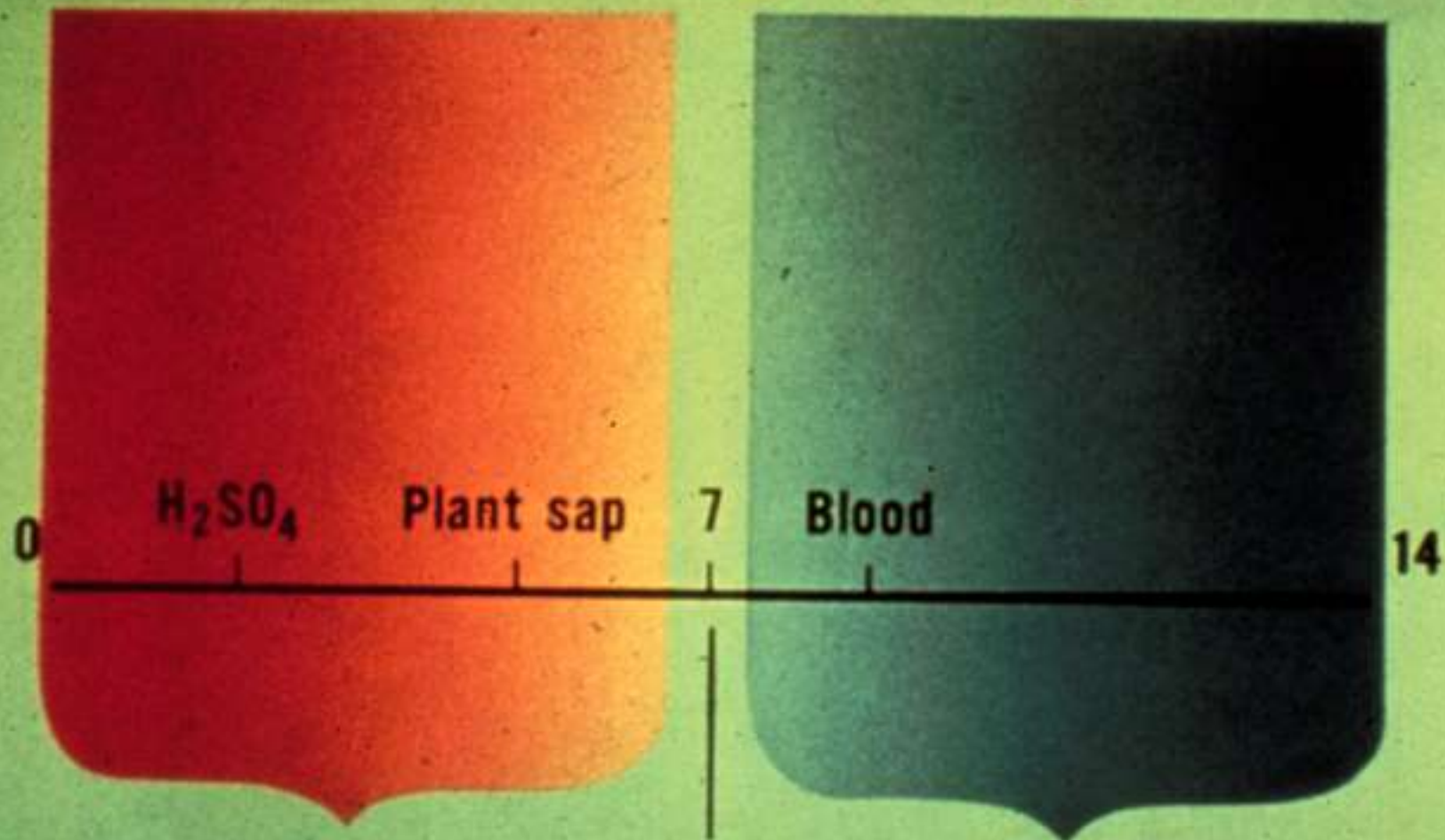
SOIL TYPE

meq/100g

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| • SAND | • <1 - 8 |
| • CLAY | • 80 - 120 |
| • ORGANIC MATTER | • 150 – 500 |
| • CLAY LOAM SOIL | • 25 – 30 |
| • SAND-BASED ROOT ZONE | • <1 - 14 |

pH

Acidity-Alkalinity Scale-(pH)



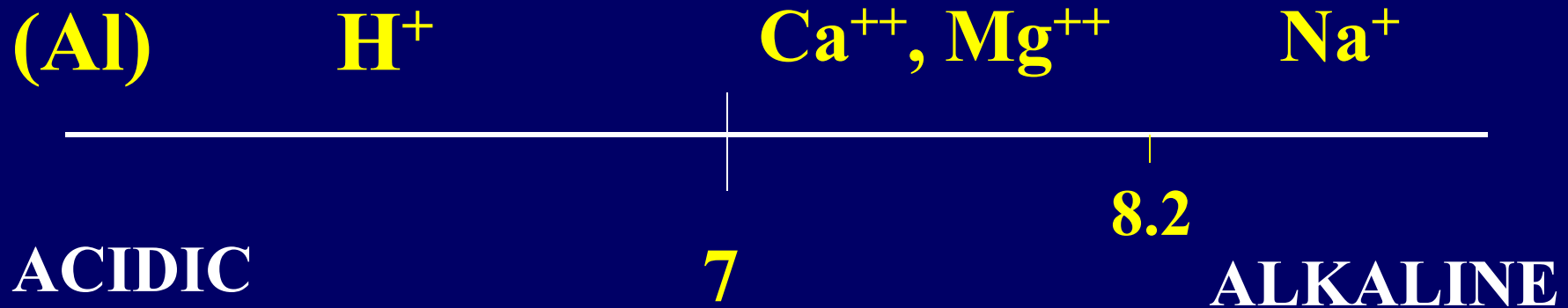
ACID

NEUTRAL

ALKALINE

pH SCALE

pH



HOW SOIL pH AFFECTS AVAILABILITY OF PLANT NUTRIENTS

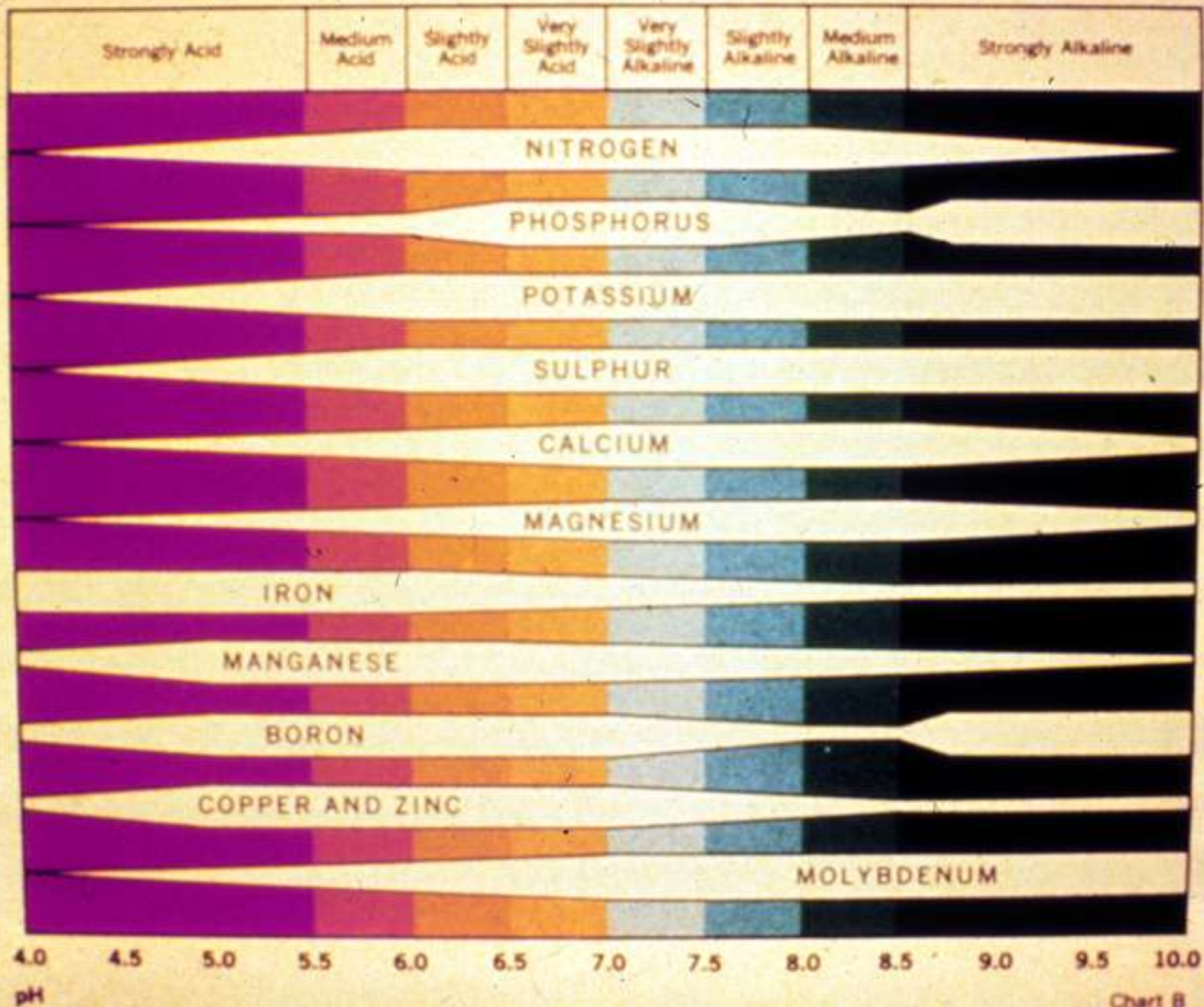


Chart B

LIMING

LIME

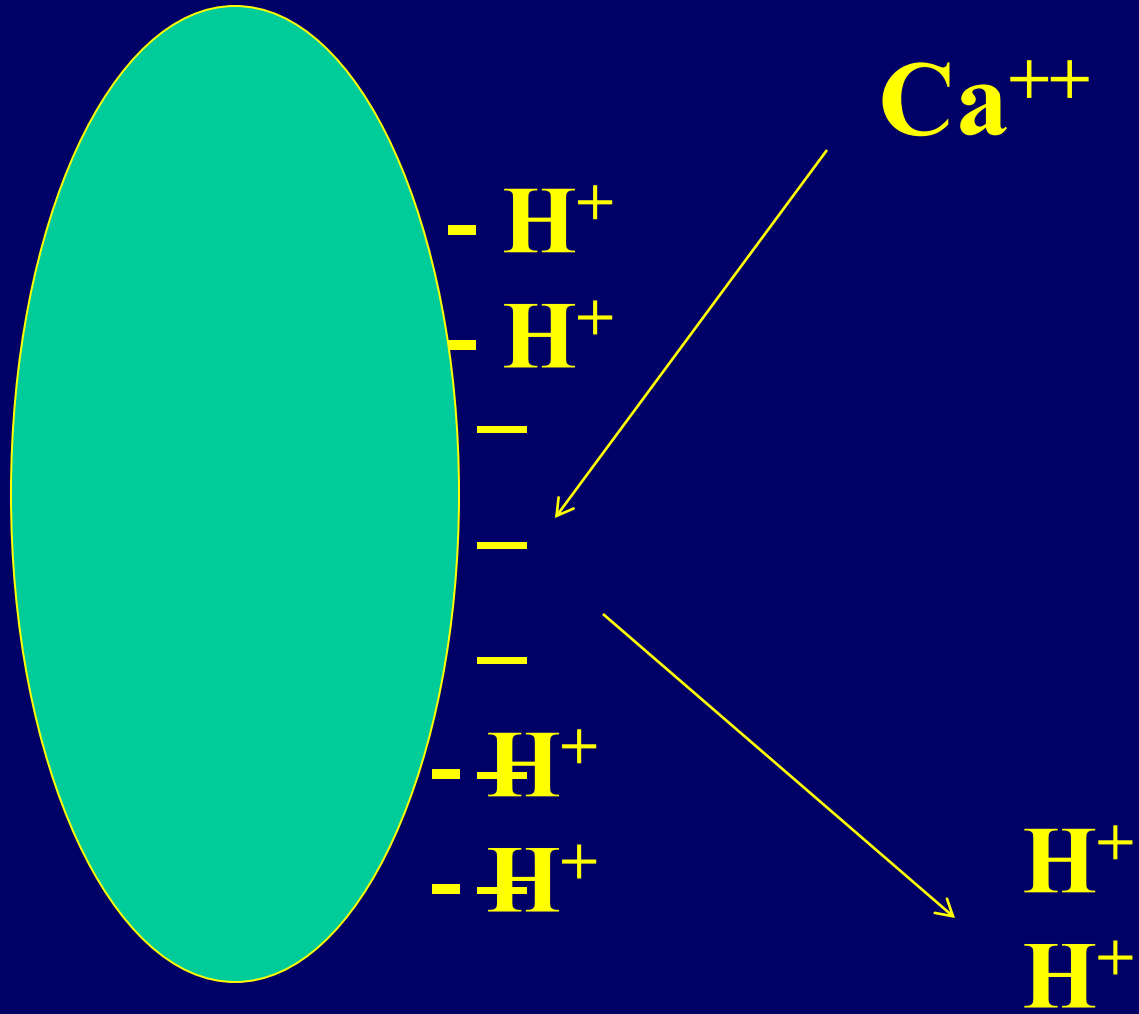
**CALCIUM
CARBONATE**

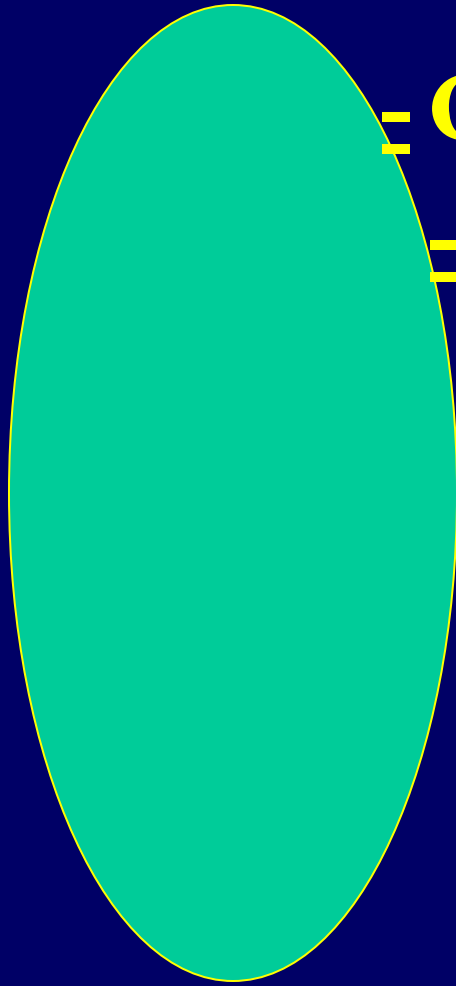
CaCO₃

LIME

RAISES

pH





= Ca⁺⁺

= Mg⁺⁺

- K⁺

- NH₄⁺

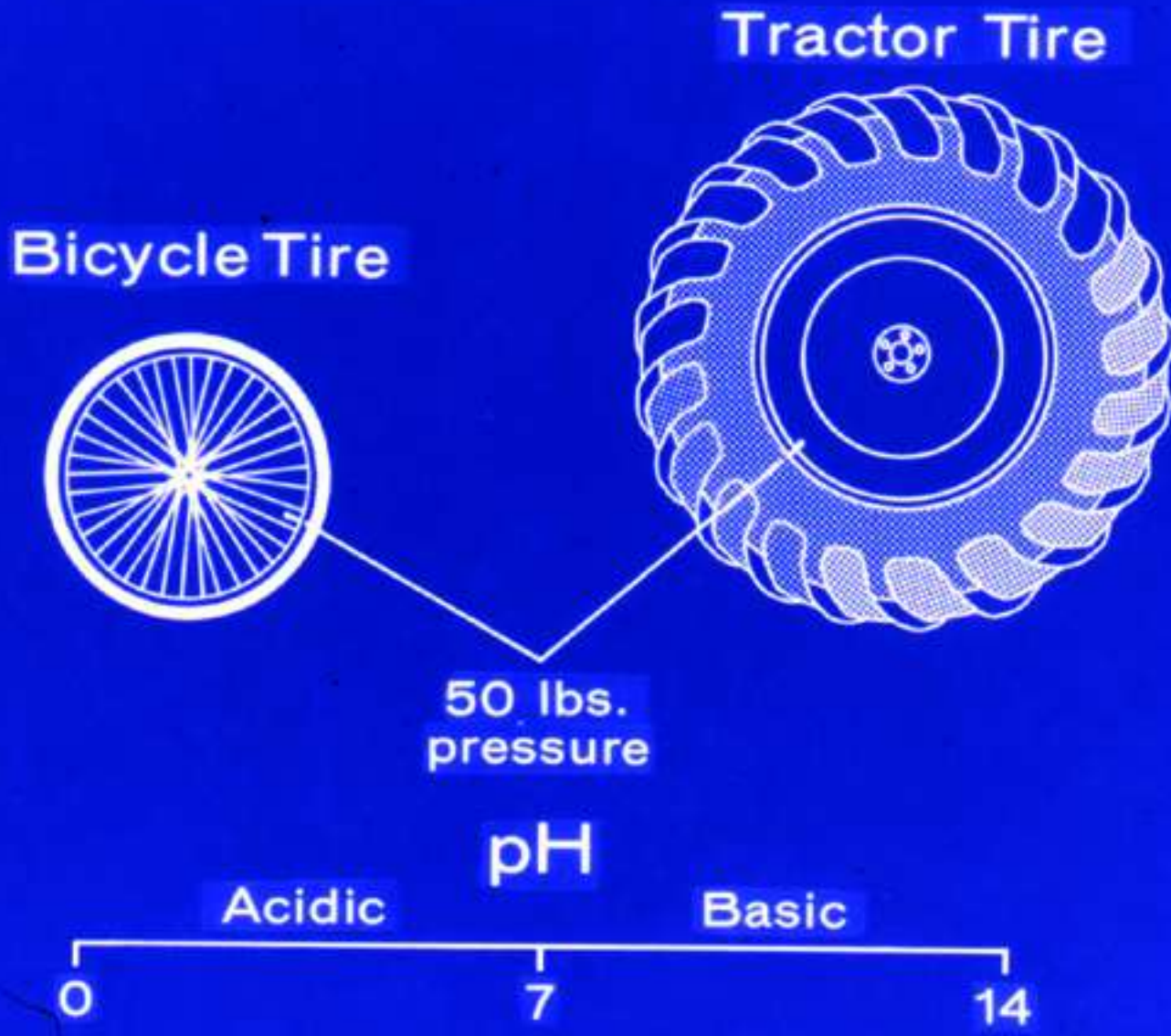
- H⁺

BUFFER pH

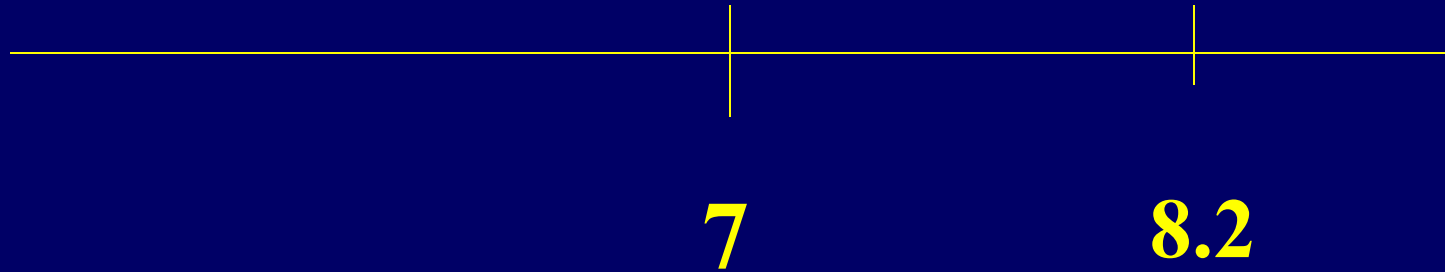
BUFFERING

**RESISTANCE TO
CHANGE**

BUFFERING



HIGH pH SANDS



HOW SOIL pH AFFECTS AVAILABILITY OF PLANT NUTRIENTS

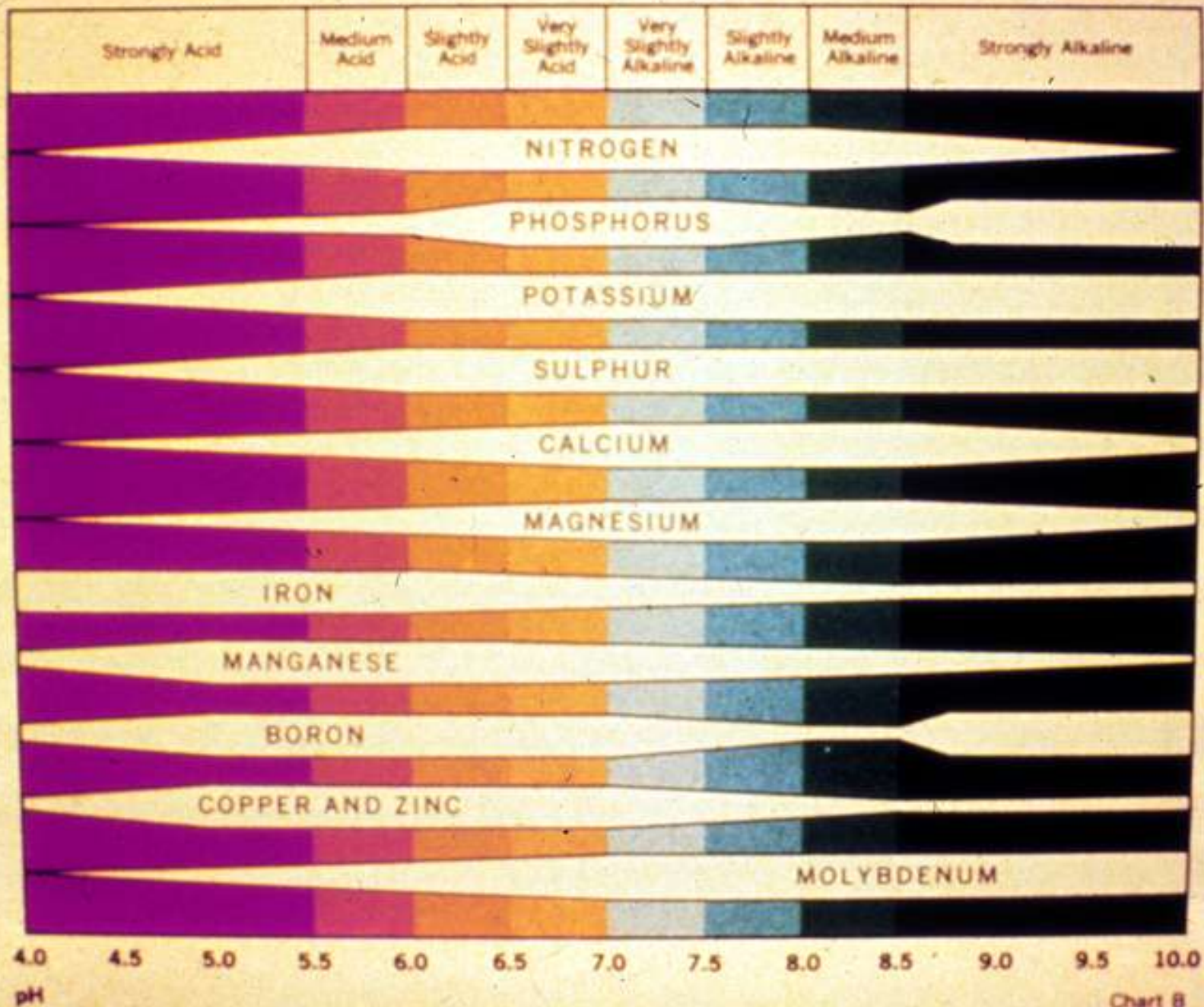


Chart B

FERTILITY

17 ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- CARBON C
- HYDROGEN H
- OXYGEN O
- PHOSPHORUS P
- POTASSIUM K
- NITROGEN N
- SULFUR S
- CALCIUM Ca
- IRON Fe
- MAGNESIUM Mg
- BORON B
- MANGANESE Mn
- COPPER Cu
- ZINC Zn
- MOLYBDENUM Mo
- CHLORINE Cl
- NICKEL Ni

17 ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- **CARBON C**
- **HYDROGEN H**
- **OXYGEN O**
- **PHOSPHORUS P**
- **POTASSIUM K**
- **NITROGEN N**
- **SULFUR S**
- **CALCIUM Ca**
- **IRON Fe**
- **MAGNESIUM Mg**
- **BORON B**
- **MANGANESE Mn**
- **COPPER Cu**
- **ZINC Zn**
- **MOLYBDENUM Mo**
- **CHLORINE Cl**
- **NICKEL Ni**

17 ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- CARBON C
- HYDROGEN H
- OXYGEN O
- PHOSPHORUS P
- POTASSIUM K
- NITROGEN N
- SULFUR S
- CALCIUM Ca
- IRON Fe
- MAGNESIUM Mg
- BORON B
- MANGANESE Mn
- COPPER Cu
- ZINC Zn
- MOLYBDENUM Mo
- CHLORINE Cl
- NICKEL Ni

MACRONUTRIENTS

- 1000 mg/kg (ppm) or more
- C, H, O, N, P, K, S, Mg, AND Ca

MICRONUTRIENTS

- Less than 100 mg/kg (ppm)
- Mo, Cu, Zn, Mn, B, Fe, Cl, and Ni

NITROGEN (N)

VARIES WITH SEVERAL FACTORS

SPECIES

SOIL TYPE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

RAINFALL

TEMPERATURE

NITROGEN (N)

COOL-SEASON

3 TO 5 LBS N/1000FT²

WARM-SEASON

**1 LB N/1000FT²/GROWING
MONTH**

NITROGEN (N)

MANAGEMENT

COLOR, CLIPPINGS

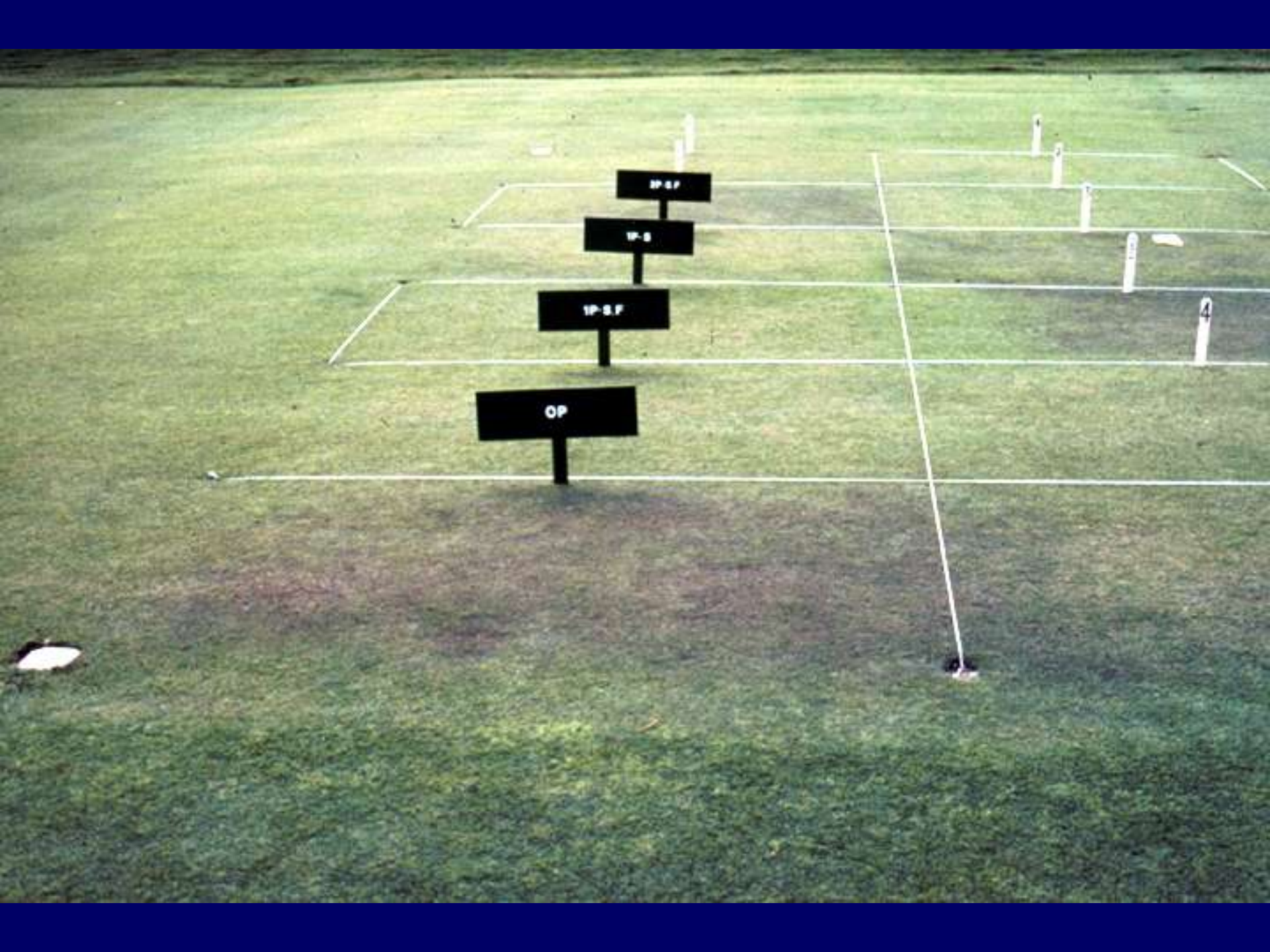
NOT TOO LITTLE,

NOT TOO MUCH

P DEFICIENCY SYMPTOMS

INITIALLY DARK GREEN

PURPLE DISCOLORATION



IP-SF

IP-S

IP-S.F

OP

1

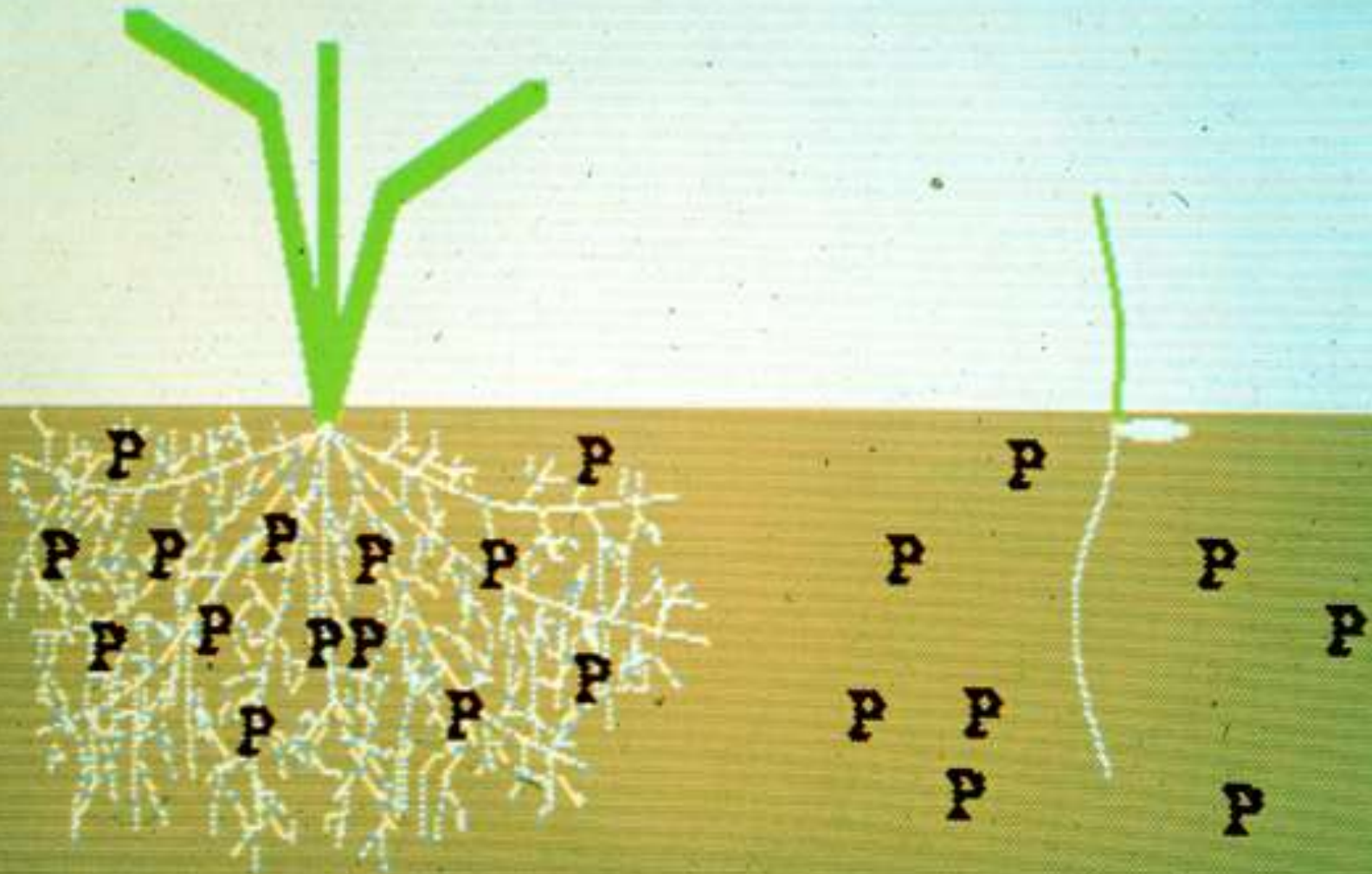
2

3

4

20-2-10

12-25-10



PHOSPHORUS

<u>PPM</u>		<u>LB/A</u>	<u>KG/HA</u>
• 0 - 5	VERY LOW	0 - 10	0 - 11
• 6 - 10	LOW	12 - 20	13 - 22
• 10 - 20	ADEQUATE	20 - 40	22 - 45
• 20 -	HIGH	40 -	45 -

POTASSIUM (K)

- **MYSTERY ELEMENT**
- **NOT A PART OF BIOCHEMICALS**
- **ACTS AS COFACTOR**
- **STOMATAL CONTROL**

STRESS

POTASSIUM (K)

<u>PPM</u>		<u>LB/A</u>	<u>KG/HA</u>
0-40	VERY LOW	0-80	0-90
41-175	LOW	81-350	91-392
175-250	ADEQUATE	350-500	392-560
250-	HIGH	500-	560-

**HOW ABOUT
THE SAND-
BASED
SYSTEM?**

SPOON FEEDING

N CAN LEACH FROM SAND

APPLY WHAT IS NEEDED

**0.2 TO 0.5 LB N EVERY 14 TO 21
DAYS**

**VARIABLES WITH ENVIRON.
CONDITIONS-IRRIGATION**

SLOW RELEASE N

PHOSPHORUS (P)

**DEPENDS ON PARENT
MATERIAL OF SAND**

DO SOIL TEST

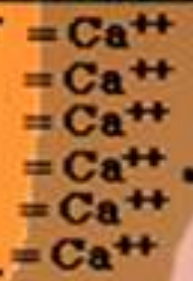
PHOSPHORUS (P)

SPOON FEEDING

LIQUID SOURCES

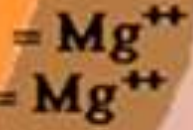
POTASSIUM (K)

60-65%

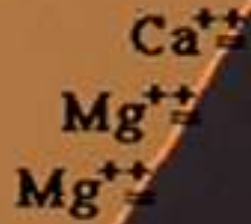


Clay

10-20%



Root



5-10%



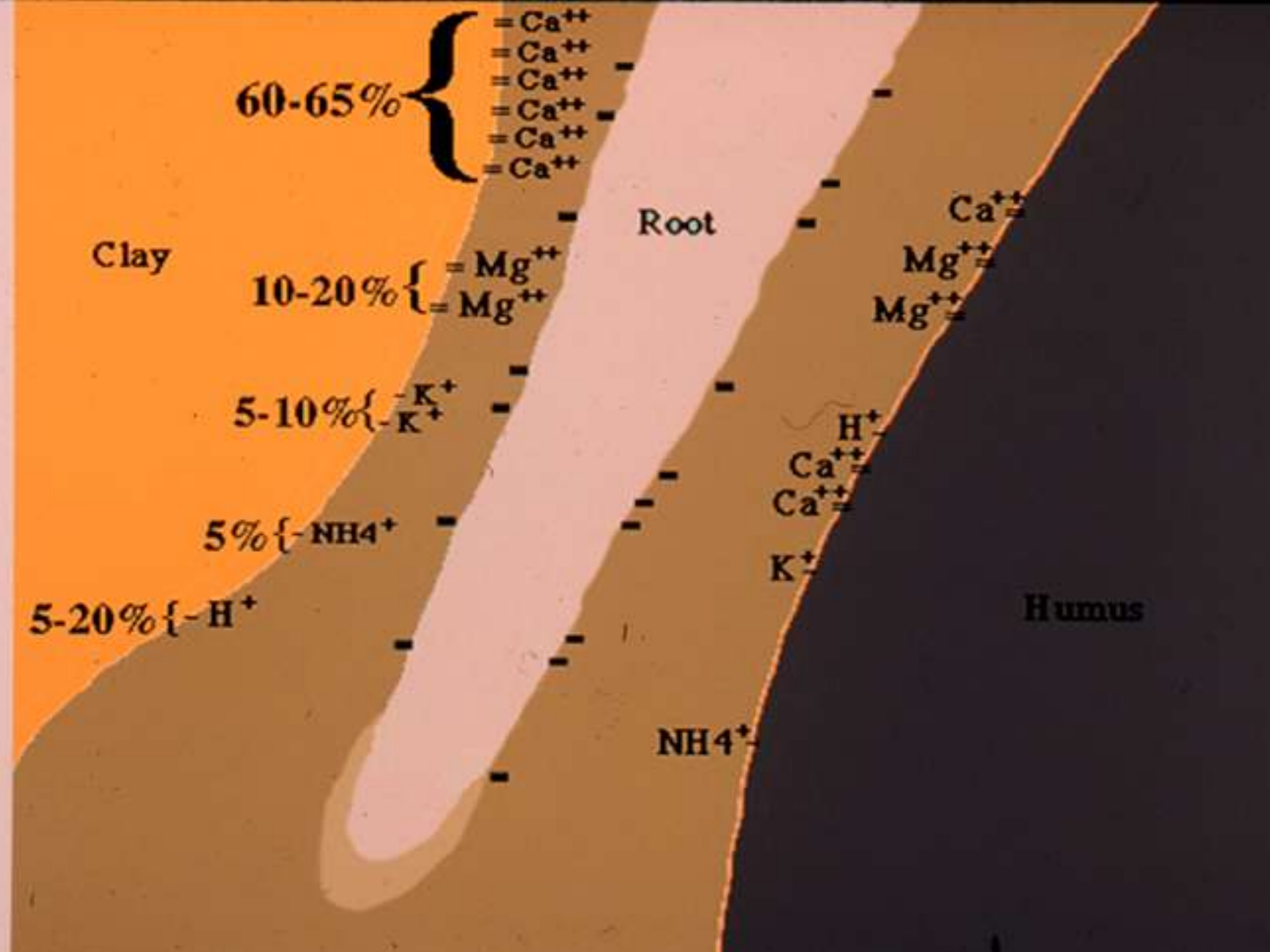
5%



5-20%

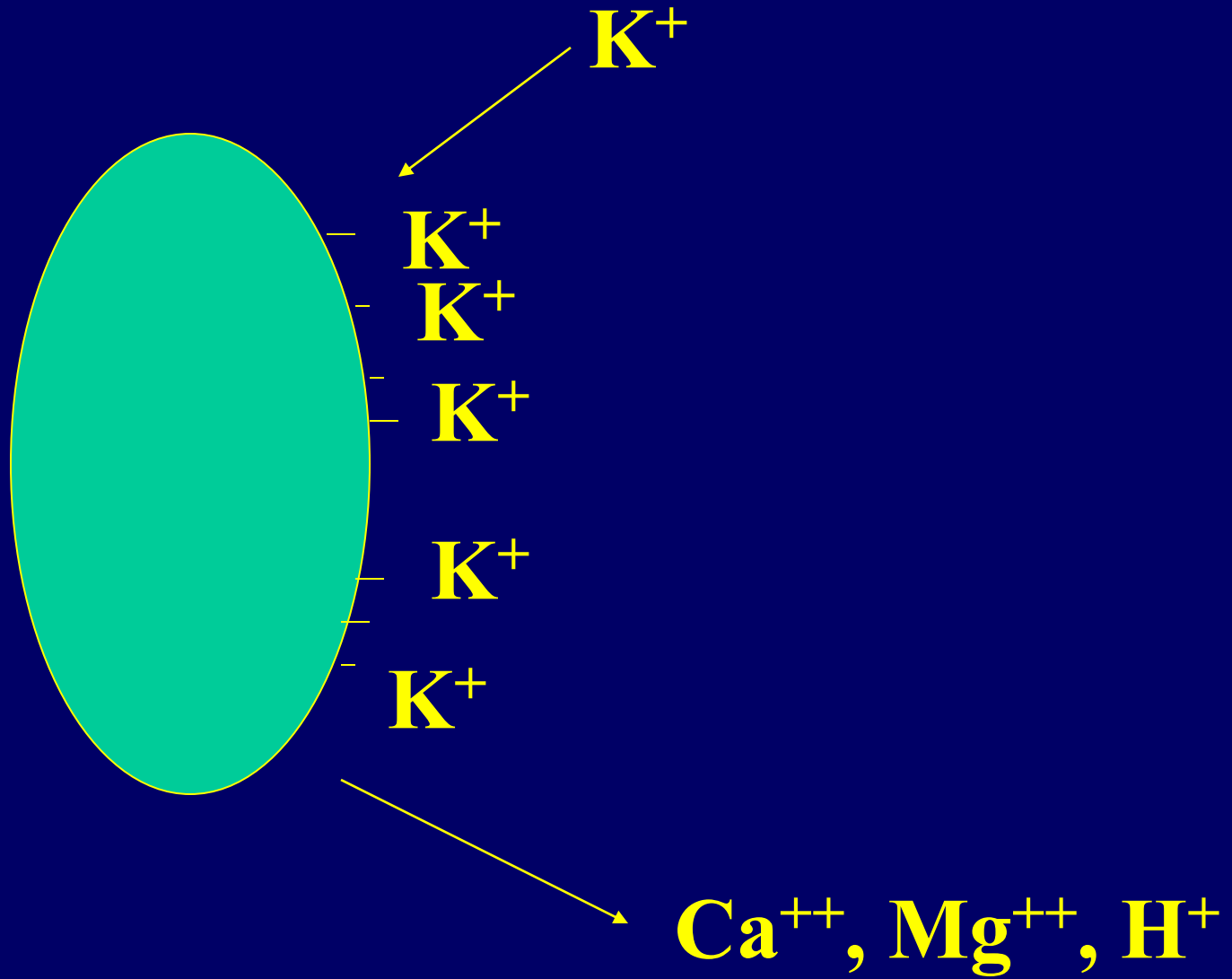


Humus



**SAND-BASED
SYSTEMS ARE
DIFFERENT THAN
SOIL**

CEC 2 vs CEC 25



SPOON FEEDING

**DO NOT TRY TO BUILD
UP K LEVEL**

**CAN SATURATE CEC
SITES**

APPLY WHAT IS NEEDED

**0.1 TO 0.3 LB K EVERY 14
TO 21 DAYS**

ENCAPSULATED K?

OTHER NUTRIENTS

HOW SOIL pH AFFECTS AVAILABILITY OF PLANT NUTRIENTS

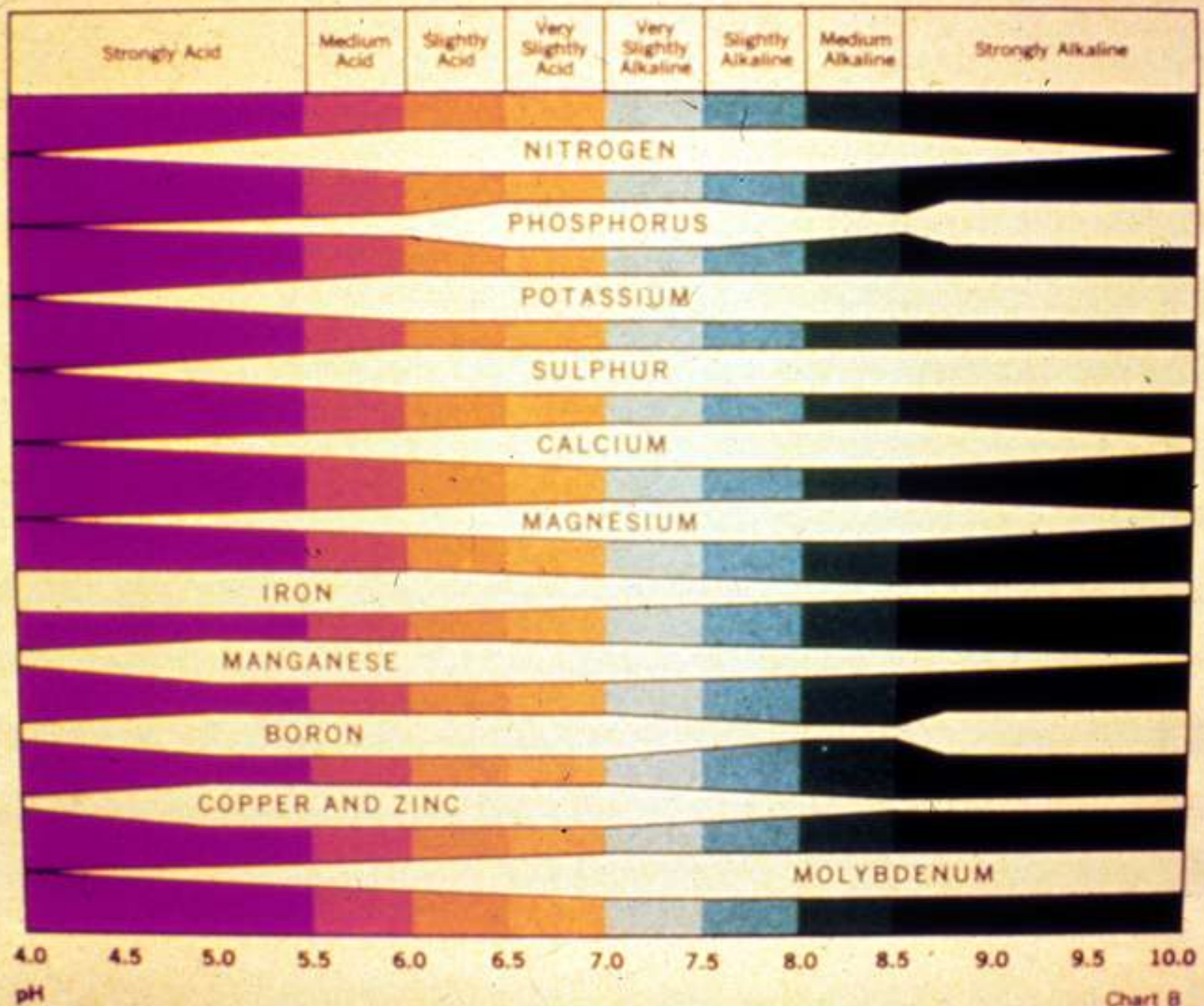


Chart B

MAGNESIUM (Mg)

- **CENTER OF CHLOROPHYLL**
- **SYMPTOM - CHLOROSIS**
- **LOW pH AND LOW CEC**

IRON (Fe)

- **COFACTOR FOR CHLOROPHYLL FORMATION**
- **SYMPTOM - CHLOROSIS**
- **HIGH pH**
- **MOST COMMON OF ALL MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES**

CALCIUM

- **YOUNGER LEAVES TURN REDDISH-BROWN**
- **FADES TO RED**
- **LOW pH CONDITIONS**

Ca/Mg Ratios

SULFUR (S)

- **YELLOWING OF YOUNGER LEAVES**
- **SLOW GROWTH**
- **RARE IN MOST OF U.S. BECAUSE OF HIGH SULFUR COAL**
- **MAY SEE IT IN DRYER PARTS OF CENTRAL US**

MANGANESE

- **YELLOWING SIMILAR TO IRON DEFICIENCY**
- **VEINS REMAIN GREEN - TIPS MAY REMAIN GREEN**
- **LEAVES DROP**

Zinc (ZN)

COPPER (Cu)

BORON