

# **WATER QUALITY AND SOIL CONDITIONS**

**NICK CHRISTIANS  
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**



# **BACKGROUND**

- **BORN IN IOWA**
- **DORDT COLLEGE, SIOUX CENTER**
- **COLORADO STATE**
- **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT,  
FLAT IRONS COUNTRY CLUB**
- **SUPERINTENDENT, PUEBLO, COLO.**
- **GRAD SCHOOL, OHIO STATE UNIV.**
- **IOWA STATE, 1979**



FUNDAMENTALS OF  
**TURFGRASS  
MANAGEMENT**

FOURTH EDITION

NICK CHRISTIANS

**IOWA TURFGRASS  
BLOG**

**[iaturf.blogspot.com](http://iaturf.blogspot.com)**

# **BASIC PRINCIPLES AND TERMINOLOGY**

REPORT NO. 809629

LD NO. 95635

DATE REC'D. 07-Dec-93

DATE REPORTED 08-Dec-93

SAMPLE WILL BE KEPT UNTIL 07-Jan-94

LABORATORY NUMBER



# Soil Analysis

Conducted by

**HARRIS LABORATORIES INC.**

**THIS ANALYSIS RUN FOR:**

RANDY CARPENTAR  
MEADOWS FARMS GC  
4300 FLAT RUN RD  
LOCUST GROVE VA 22508

**THIS ANALYSIS REQUESTED BY:**

Robert Herring  
7303 Native Dancer Dr  
Midlothian VA 23112  
PH804-739-1050 77L

ALL NUTRIENT RESULTS EXPRESSED IN PPM

CODE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sample Description	GRN11	GRN12	GRN13	GRN14	GRN15	GRN16	GRN17	GRN18	PG
CEC	3.4	2.8	3.1	4.2	4.4	3.2	2.5	4.1	2.7
Soil pH	6.7*	6.7*	6.7*	6.9*	6.4	6.8*	7.1*	6.8*	6.7*
Buffer pH	-----	-----	-----	-----	7.2	-----	-----	-----	-----
Soluble Salts	0.14	0.14	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.20	0.14	0.18	0.23
Exchangeable Calcium (Ca)	454*	366*	417*	597*	641	452*	334*	586*	344*
Exchangeable Magnesium (Mg)	104	92	102	119	116	97	79	115	90
Exchangeable Sodium (Na)	10	10	9	10	10	8	7	14	16
% H Base Saturation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% K Base Saturation	5.4*	5.2*	4.8*	3.7*	4.0*	3.8*	5.3*	4.0*	7.5*
% Mg Base Saturation	25.8*	27.5*	27.2*	23.7*	22.0*	25.1*	26.4*	23.3*	27.3*
% Ca Base Saturation	67.5	65.7	66.8	71.5	73.0	70.1	67.1	71.2	62.7
% Na Base Saturation	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.5	2.5

**CODING INFORMATION**

Sample Description	Composite Information	Plant Variety	Sample Nature
1 GRN11		GART	
2 GRN12		GART	

VERY HIGH	EXCESSIVE								
	VERY HIGH								
HIGH	HIGH								
		X	X	X					
		XXXXX	XXXXXXX						

# **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

$K^+$

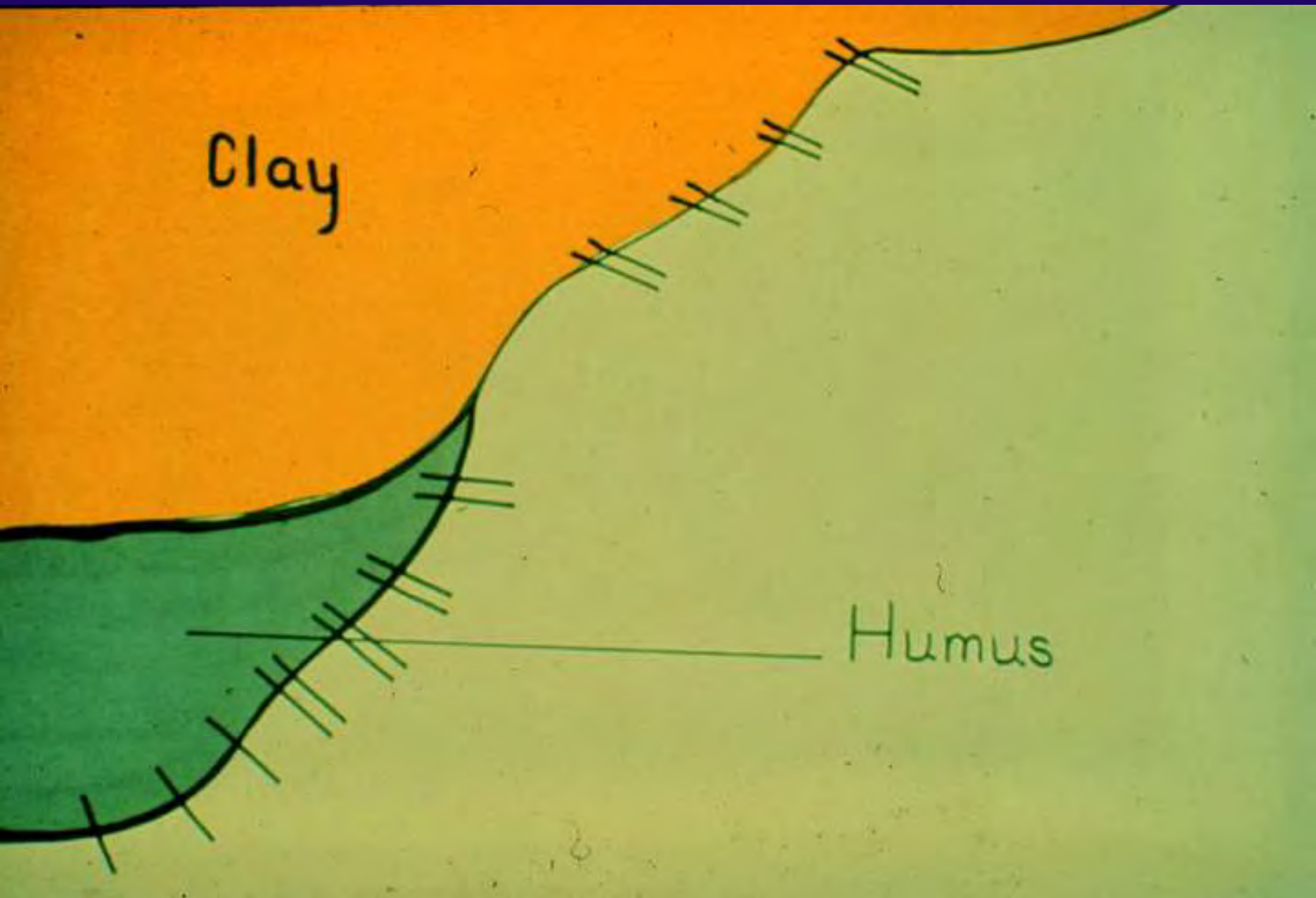
Sodium

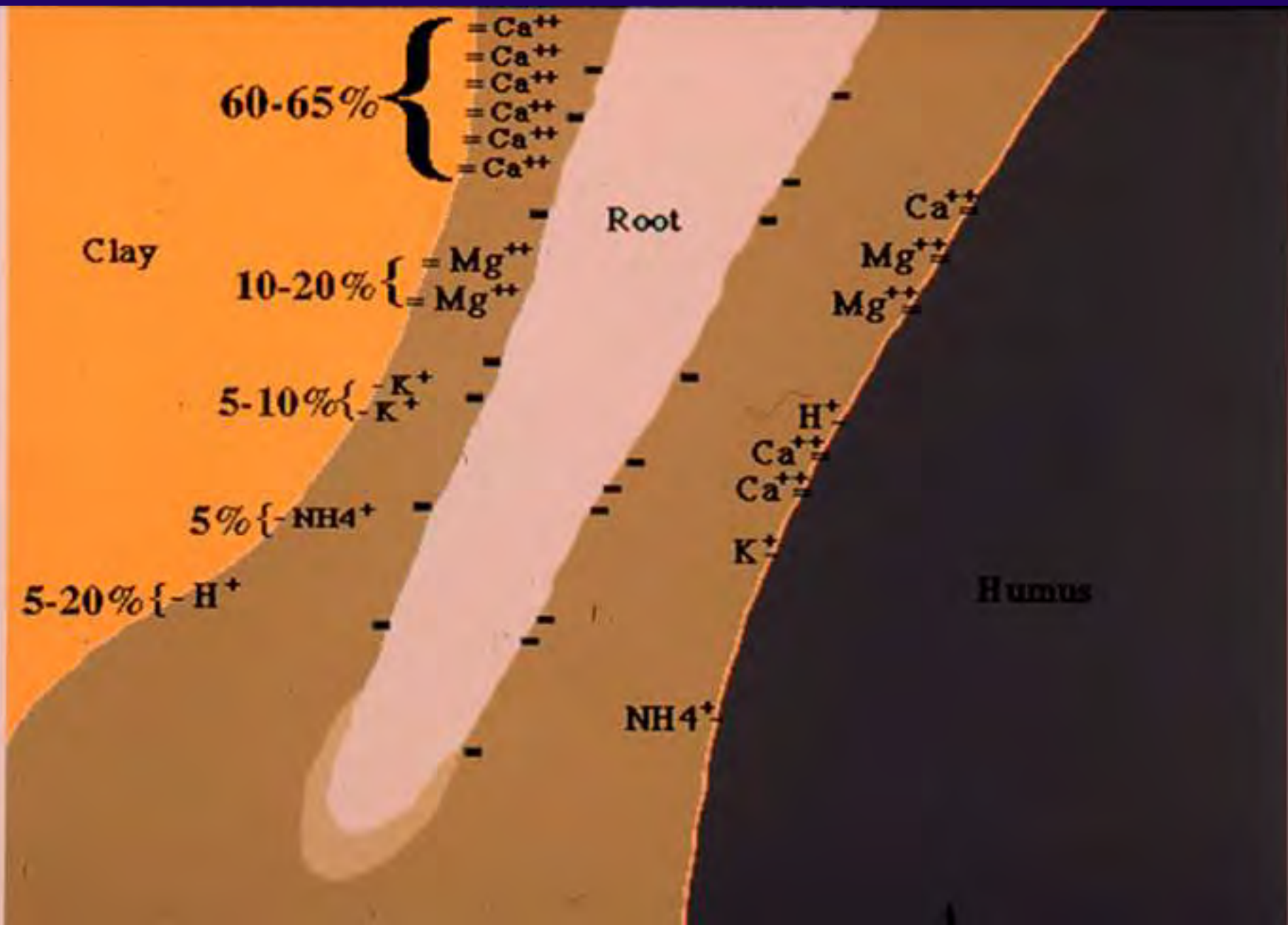
Na

$Na^+$

Clay

Humus





60-65%

- = Ca<sup>++</sup>
- = Ca<sup>++</sup>
- = Ca<sup>++</sup>
- = Ca<sup>++</sup>
- = Ca<sup>++</sup>
- = Ca<sup>++</sup>

Clay

10-20%

- = Mg<sup>++</sup>
- = Mg<sup>++</sup>

Root

Ca<sup>++</sup>

Mg<sup>++</sup>

Mg<sup>++</sup>

5-10%

- = K<sup>+</sup>
- = K<sup>+</sup>

H<sup>+</sup>

Ca<sup>++</sup>

Ca<sup>++</sup>

5% { - NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>

K<sup>+</sup>

5-20% { - H<sup>+</sup>

Humus

NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>

# CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY

## SOIL TYPE

## meq/100g

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

# **CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY**

**1 milliequivalent (meq)**

**$6.02 \times 10^{20}$**

**602,000,000,000,000,000,000**

# CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY

## SOIL TYPE

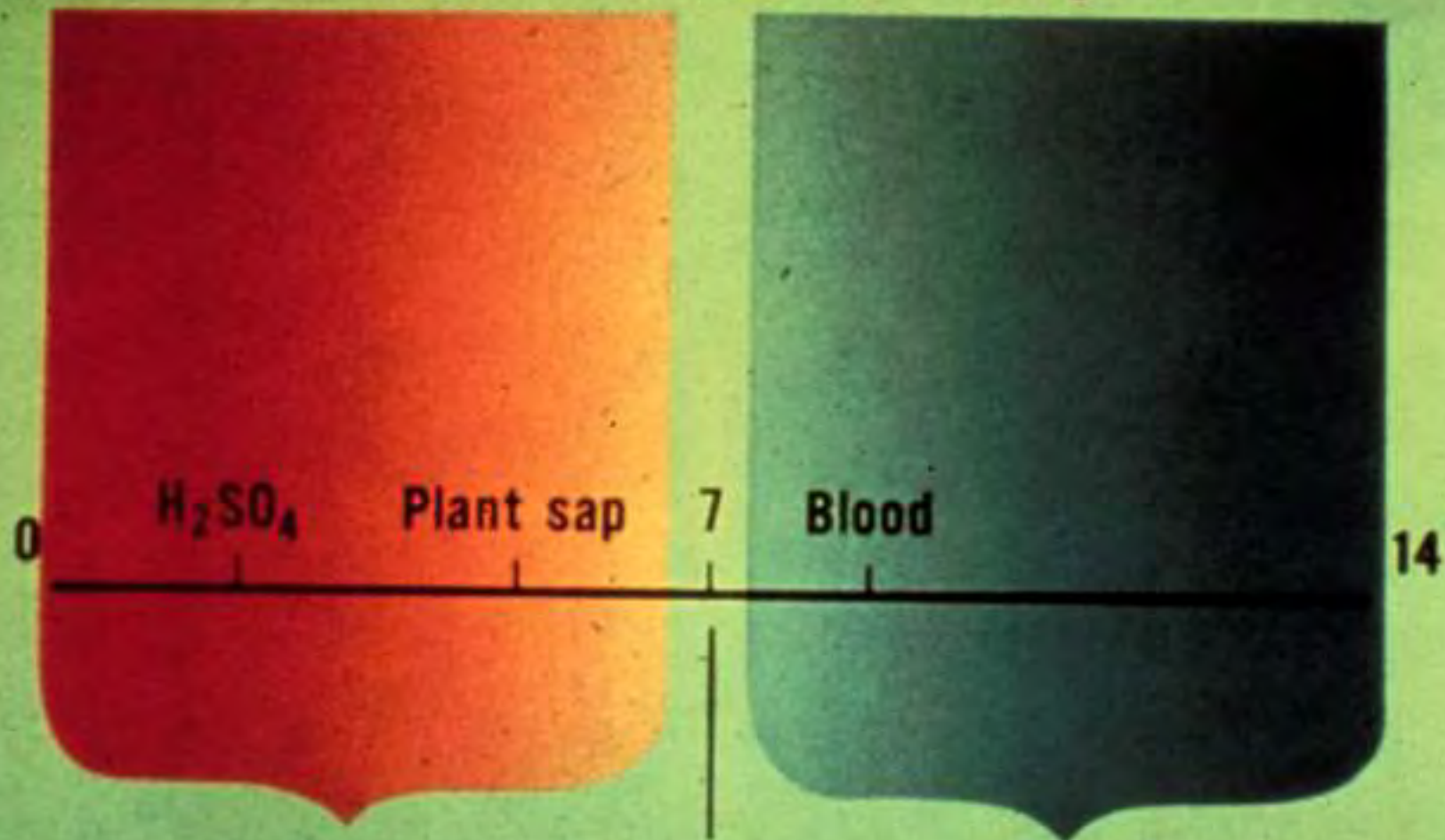
## meq/100g

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

**pH**



# Acidity-Alkalinity Scale-(pH)



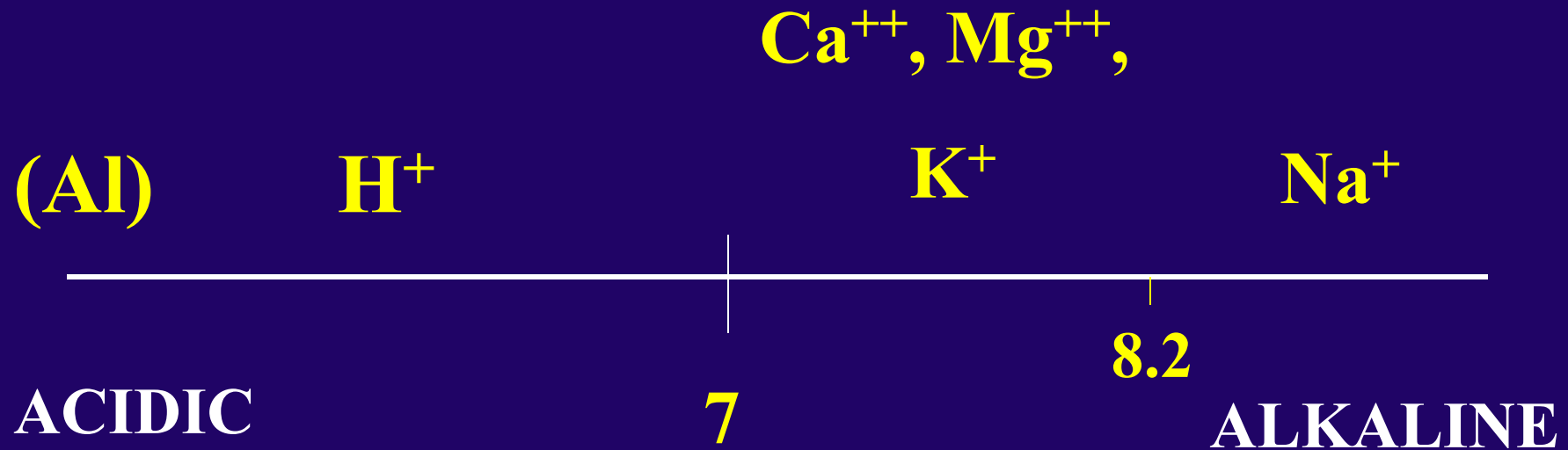
ACID

NEUTRAL

ALKALINE

pH SCALE

# pH



# HOW SOIL pH AFFECTS AVAILABILITY OF PLANT NUTRIENTS

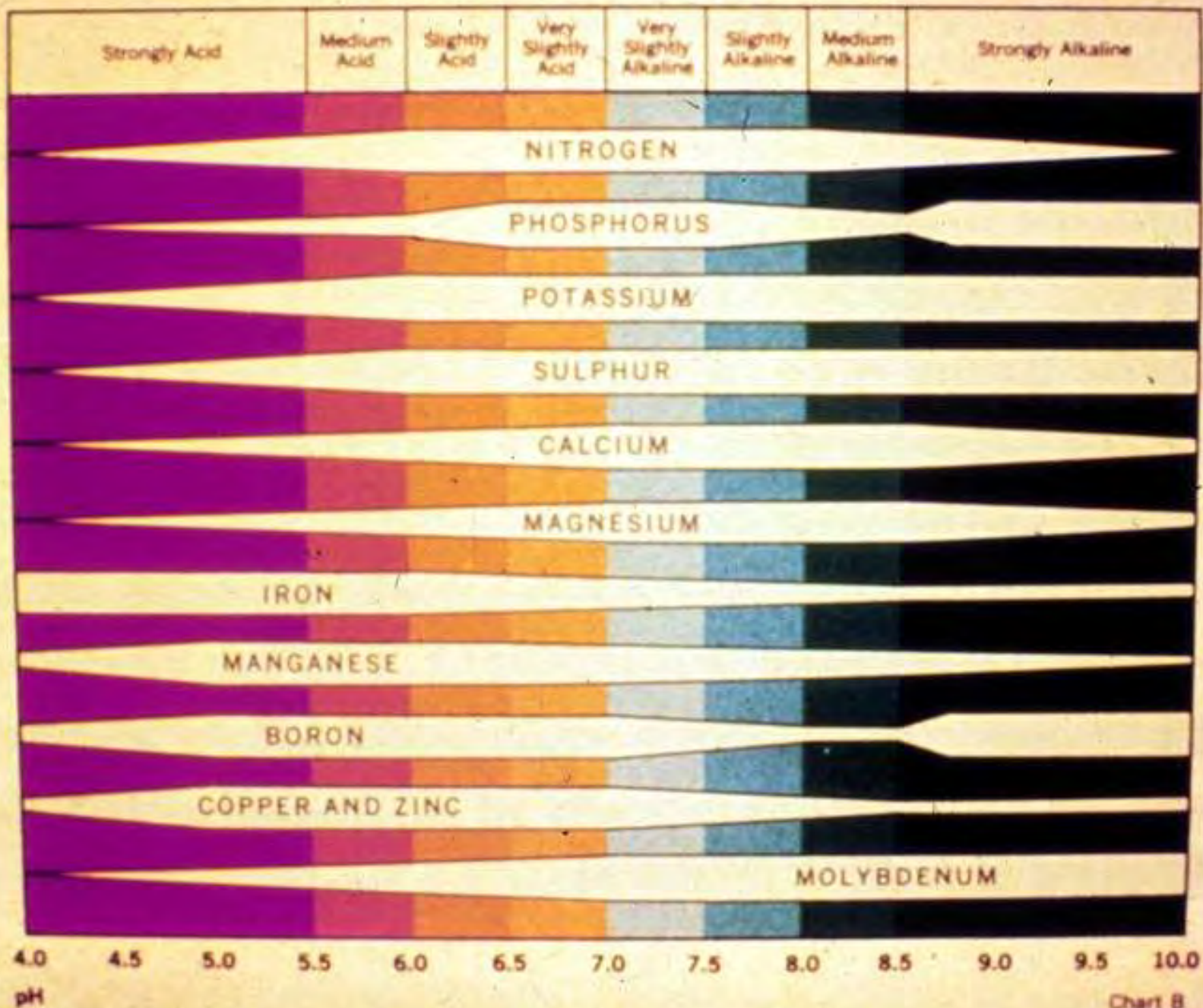


Chart B

**LIMING**

**LIME**

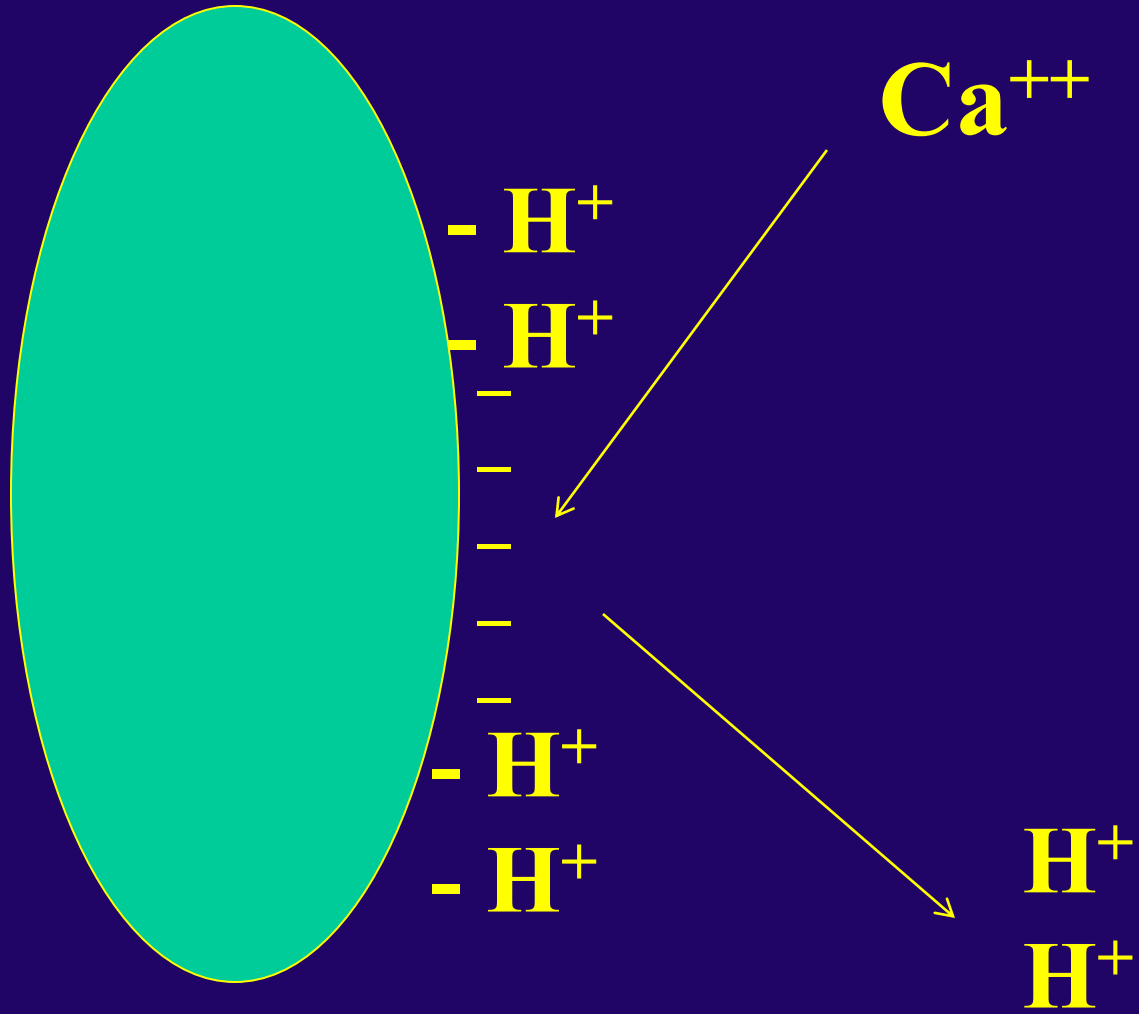
**CALCIUM  
CARBONATE**

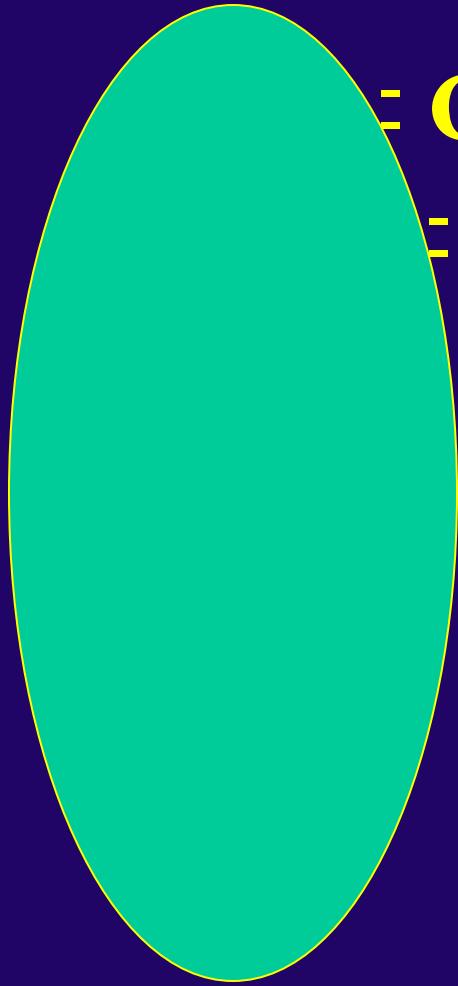
**CaCO<sub>3</sub>**

**LIME**

**RAISES**

**pH**





=  $\text{Ca}^{++}$

=  $\text{Mg}^{++}$

-  $\text{K}^{+}$

-  $\text{NH}_4^{+}$

-  $\text{H}^{+}$



**BUFFER pH**

Sample Description	GRN11	GRN12	GRN13	GRN14	GRN15	GRN16	GRN17	GRN18	PG	WARMUP	
CEC	3.4	2.8	3.1	4.2	4.4	3.2	2.5	4.1	2.7	4.3	3.5
Soil pH	6.7*	6.7*	6.7*	6.9*	6.4	6.8*	7.1*	6.8*	6.7*	7.0*	6.8*
Buffer pH	-----	-----	-----	-----	7.2	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	7.2
Soluble Salts	0.14	0.14	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.20	0.14	0.18	0.23	0.13	0.16
Exchangeable Calcium (Ca)	454*	366*	417*	597*	641	452*	334*	586*	344*	627	482*
Exchangeable Magnesium (Mg)	104	92	102	119	116	97	79	115	90	119	103
Exchangeable Sodium (Na)	10	10	9	10	10	8	7	14	16	8	10
% H Base Saturation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% K Base Saturation	5.4*	5.2*	4.8*	3.7*	4.0*	3.8*	5.3*	4.0*	7.5*	4.2*	4.8*
% Mg Base Saturation	25.8*	27.5*	27.2*	23.7*	22.0*	25.1*	26.4*	23.3*	27.3*	22.8*	25.1*
% Ca Base Saturation	67.5	65.7	66.8	71.5	73.0	70.1	67.1	71.2	62.7	72.2	68.8
% Na Base Saturation	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.5	2.5	0.8	1.3

sis

ES INC.

DR:

VA 22508

D BY:

er Dr

VA 231126

7L

N

Plant Variety  
Sample Nature

GART  
GART  
GART  
GART  
GART  
GART  
GART  
GART  
GART  
GART

VERY HIGH
HIGH
MEDIUM
LOW
CEC

EXCESSIVE  
VERY HIGH  
HIGH  
OPTIMUM  
LOW

Soil pH
---------

Soluble Salts
---------------

Calcium
---------

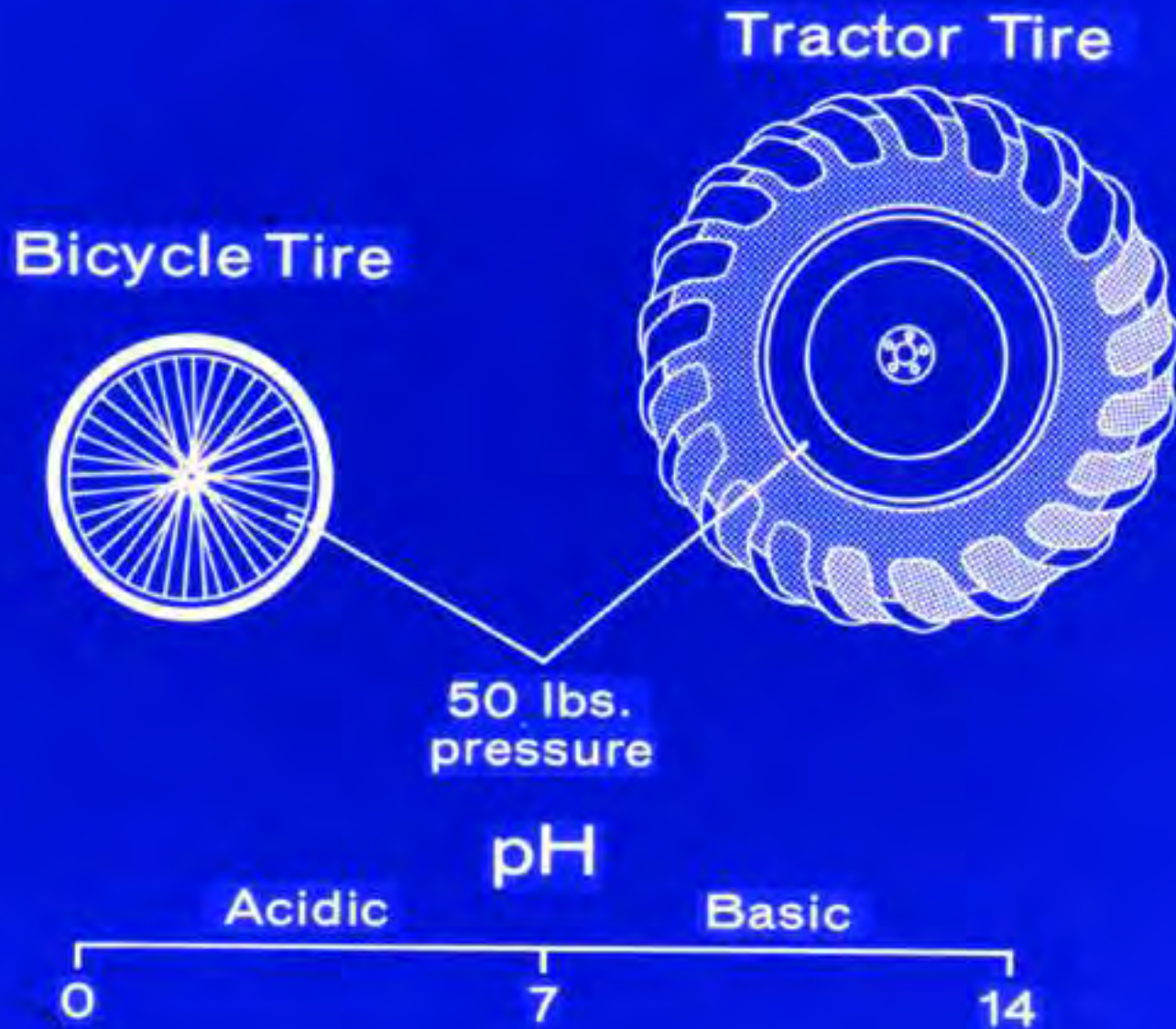
Magnesium
-----------

Sodium
--------

**BUFFERING**

**RESISTANCE TO  
CHANGE**

# BUFFERING



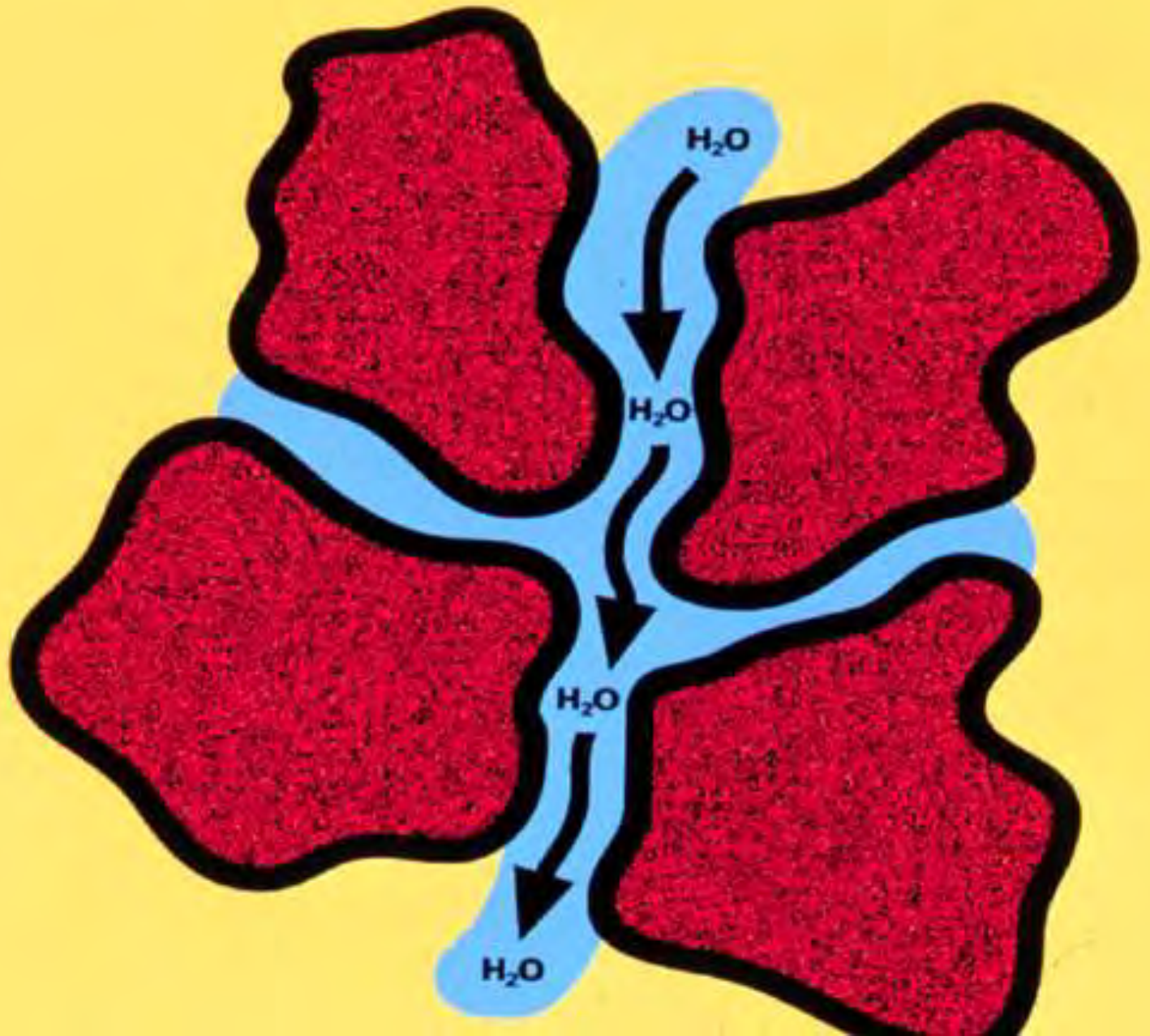
**Table 7.3. Amount of CaCO<sub>3</sub>, or its equivalent, in pounds per acre required to raise the pH to 6.5, based on the buffer pH.**

<b>lb CaCO<sub>3</sub>/acre required for</b>				
<b>Buffer pH</b>	<b>2-in. Depth</b>	<b>3-in. Depth</b>	<b>6-in. Depth</b>	<b>8-in. Depth</b>
7.0	0	0	0	0
6.9	0	0	0	0
6.8	200	300	600	800
6.7	400	700	1300	1700
6.6	700	1100	2100	2800
6.5	900	1400	2800	3700
6.4	1200	1800	3500	4700
6.3	1400	2100	4200	5600
6.2	1700	2500	5000	6700
6.1	1900	2900	5700	7600
6.0	2200	3200	6400	8600
5.9	2400	3600	7100	9500
5.8	2600	4000	7900	10600
5.7	2900	4300	8600	11500

# GYPSUM



# Soil Aggregates



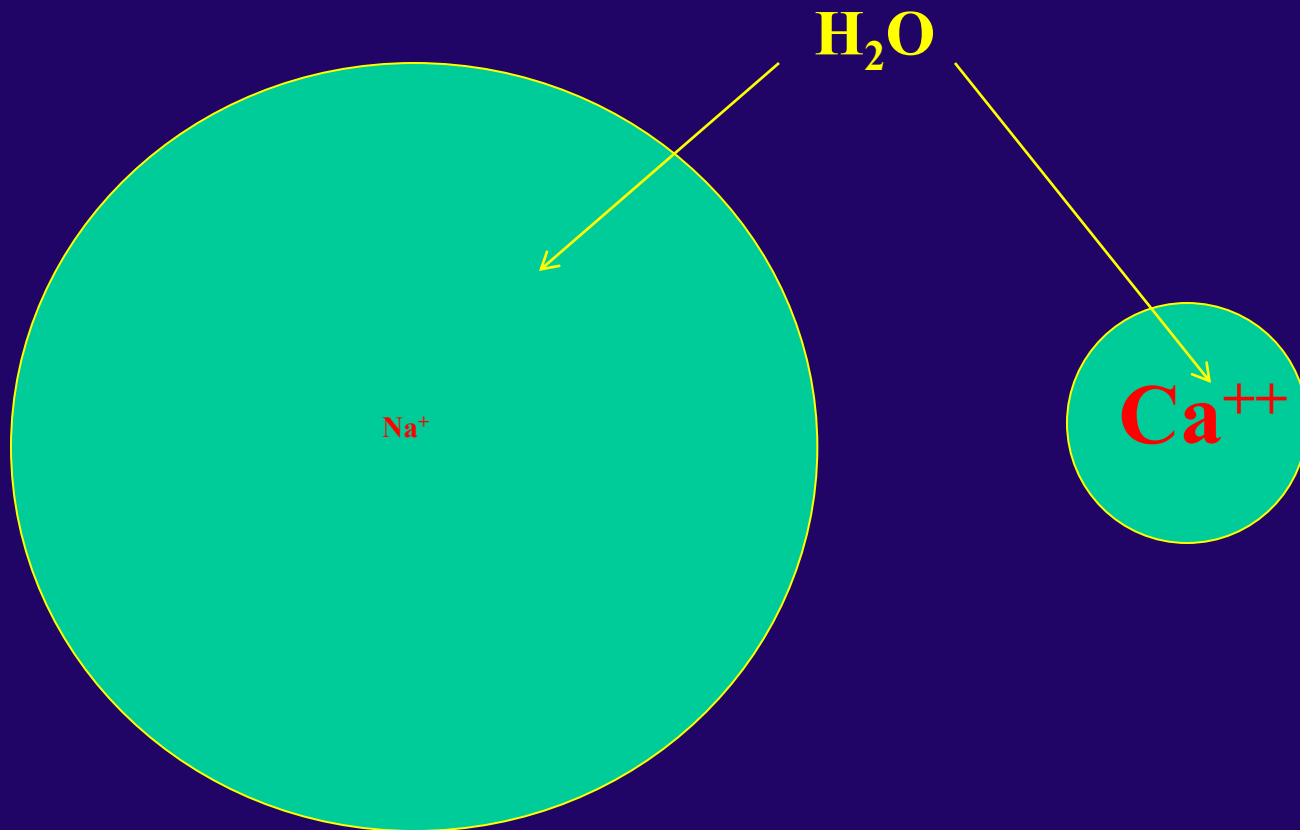
**SODIUM Na<sup>+</sup>**

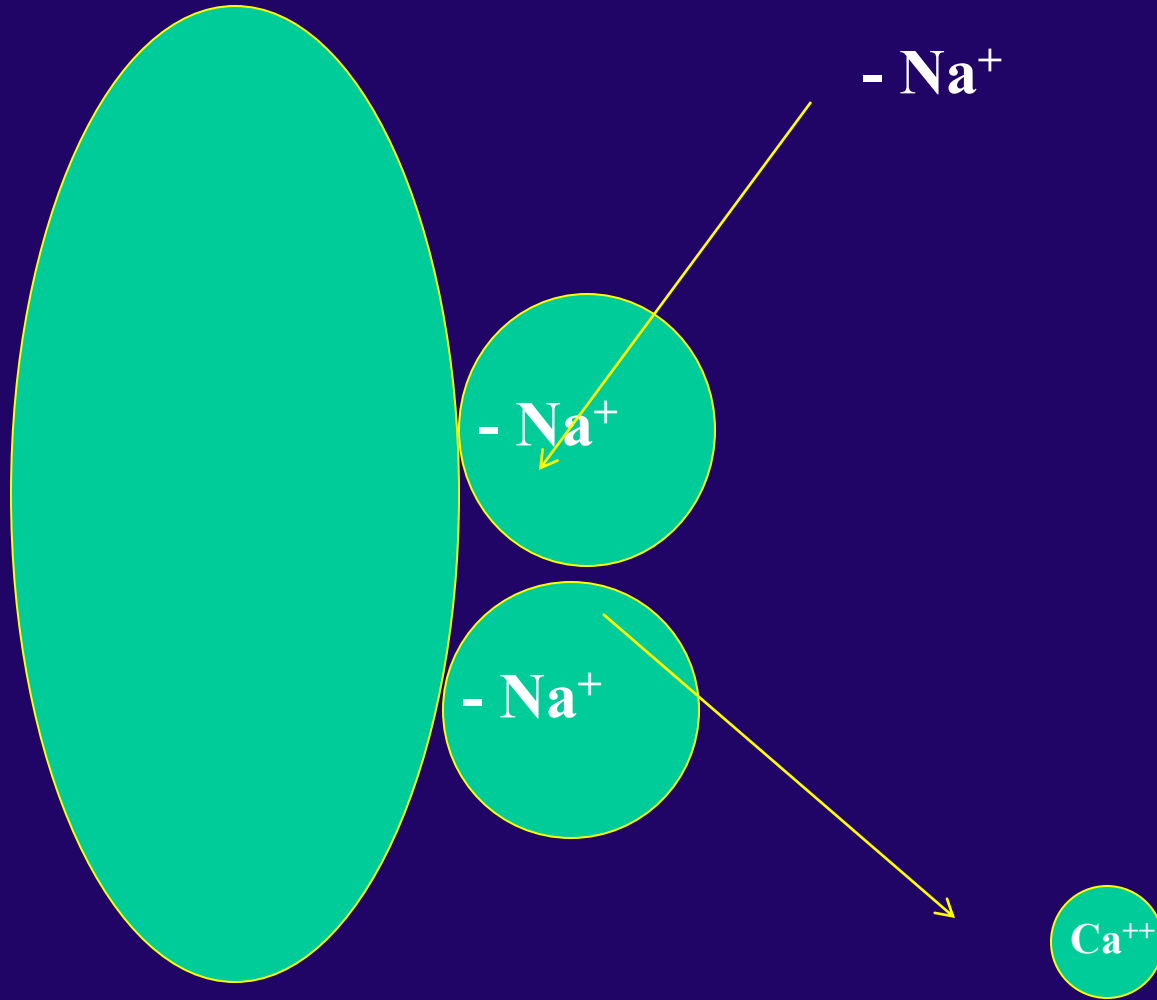


# SODIUM

- **NOT AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT**
- **NATURALLY OCCURING**
- **SEWAGE EFFLUENT**
- **CAN DAMAGE PLANTS**
- **MONOVALENT (1+)**
- **LARGE HYDRATED SIZE**
- **CAN DAMAGE SOIL STRUCTURE**

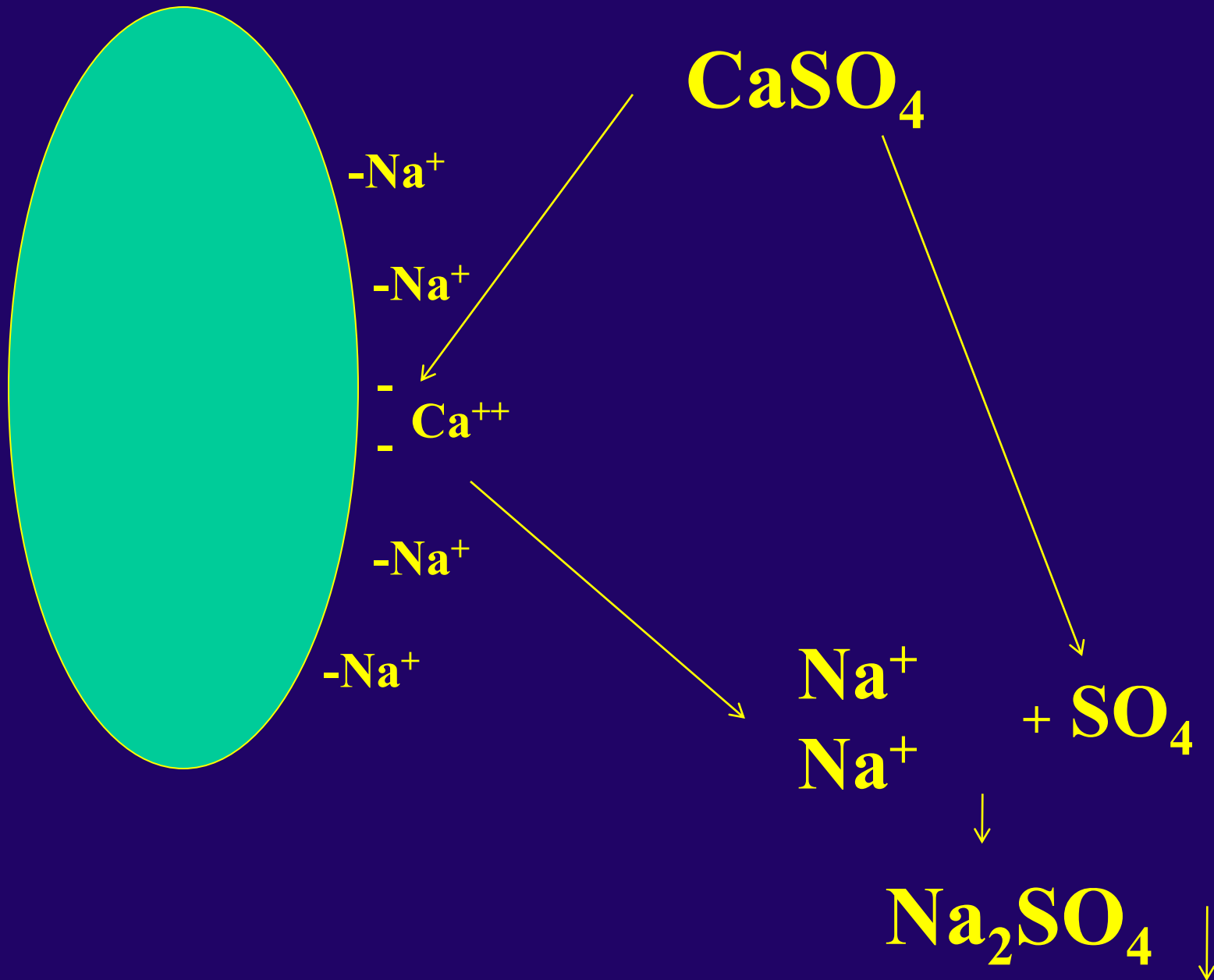
# HYDRATED SIZE



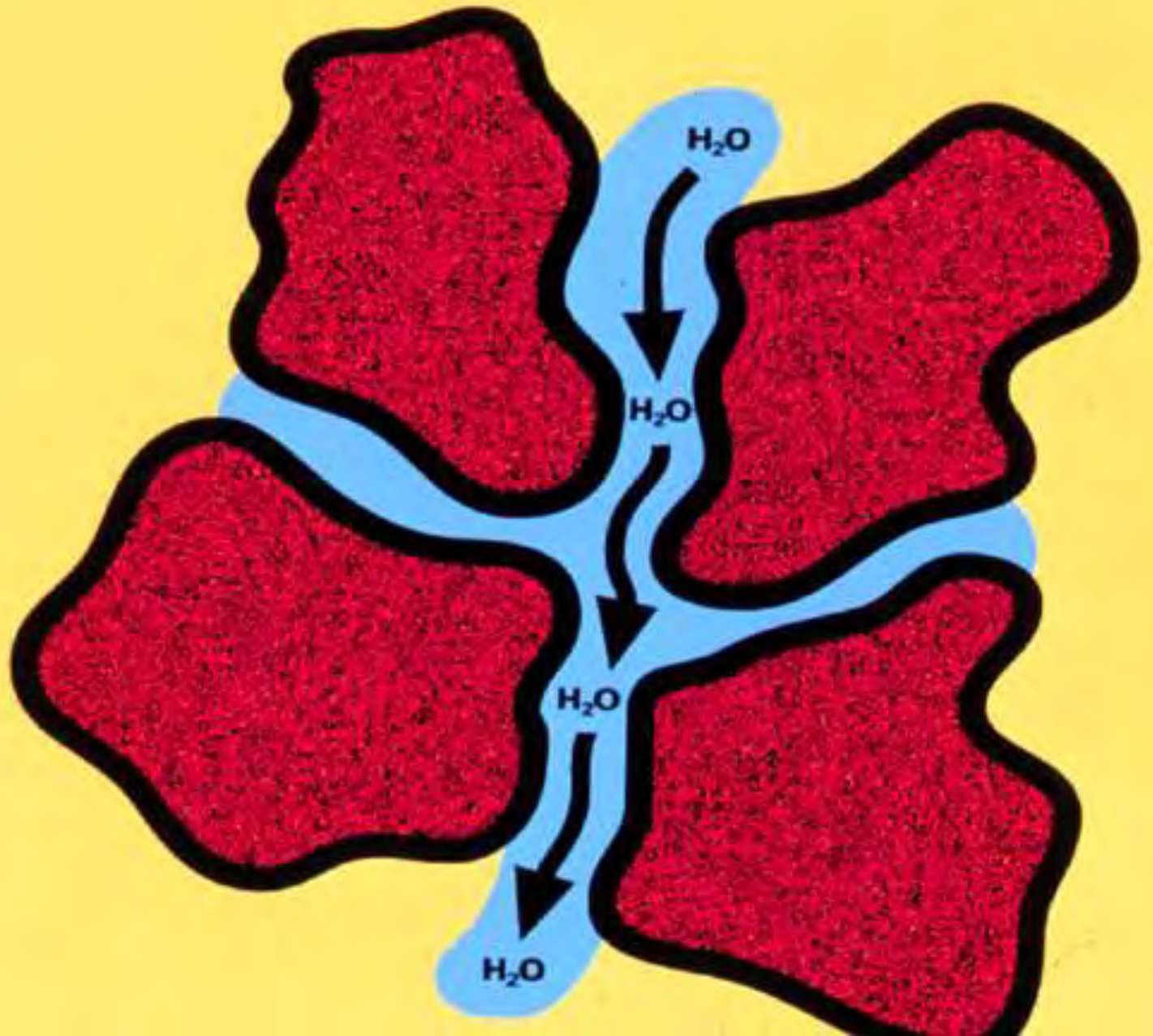


# Dispersed Soil





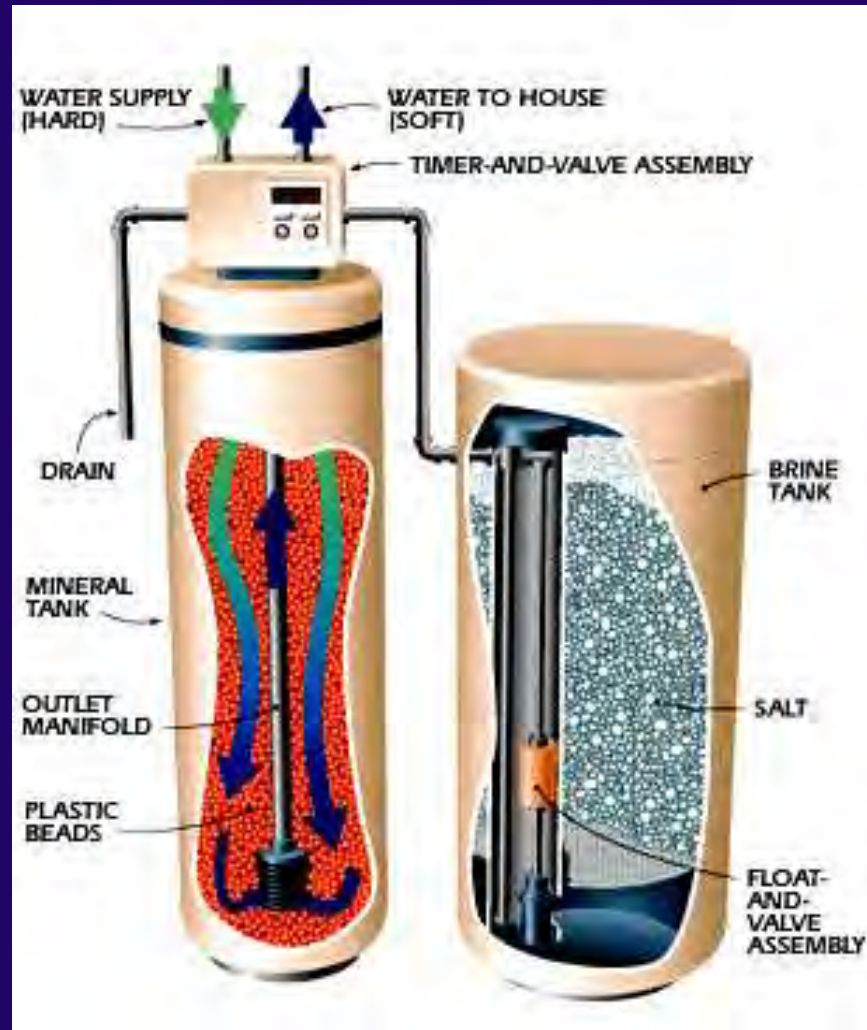
# Soil Aggregates



# GYPSUM

- **CALCIUM SULFATE**      **CaSO<sub>4</sub>**
- **Calcium replaces Na<sup>+</sup> on cation ex. Sites**
- **Sodium sulfate leaches from soil**
- **Soil structure is Slowly restored**

# WATER SOFTENER





# **SODIUM ADSORPTION RATIO - SAR**

- **RATIO OF SODIUM TO CALCIUM AND MAGNESIUM**
- **ESTIMATE OF AMOUNT OF SODIUM THAT WILL ACCUMULATE IN IRRIGATED SOIL**
- **5 TO 15 DEPENDING ON SOIL TYPE**

# SODIUM ADSORPTION RATIO

## SAR

$$\text{SAR} = \frac{\text{Na}^+}{\sqrt{\frac{\text{Ca}^{++} + \text{Mg}^{++}}{2}}}$$



Na<sup>+</sup>  
in irrigation  
water

- Na<sup>+</sup>
- Na<sup>+</sup>
- Na<sup>+</sup>
- Na<sup>+</sup>
- = Ca<sup>++</sup>
- Na<sup>+</sup>
- = Mg<sup>++</sup>
- Na<sup>+</sup>
- Na<sup>+</sup>
- K<sup>+</sup>



- Ca<sup>++</sup>
- Mg<sup>++</sup>
- K<sup>+</sup>
- NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>

# CALCIUM AND MAGNESIUM

- DIVALENT (++)
- SMALLER HYDRATED SIZE

$\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{++}$   
in irrigation  
water



- $\text{Na}^+$
- =  $\text{Ca}^{++}$
- =  $\text{Mg}^{++}$
- $\text{Na}^+$
- K
- $\text{Na}^+$
- =  $\text{Ca}^{++}$
- =  $\text{Mg}^{++}$
- $\text{NH}_4^+$

# BICARBONATES

- CAN REACT WITH Ca and Mg
- RESULTS IN HIGHER SAR

**ADJUSTED SAR - SAR<sub>ADJ</sub>**

**ADJUSTED FOR BICARBONATES**

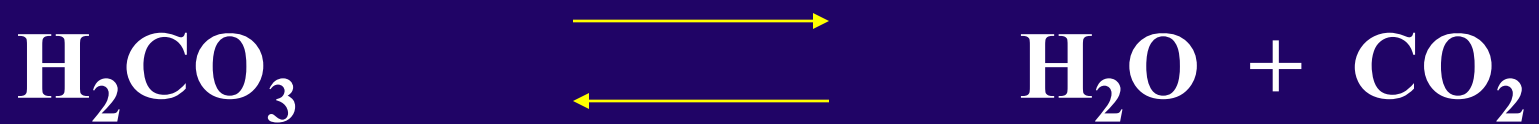
**BICARBONATES REMOVE Ca and Mg**

**THE WIDER THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN SAR AND SAR<sub>ADJ</sub>, THE  
GREATER THE BICARBONATE  
PROBLEM**

# ACID INJECTION



# SULFURIC ACID REACTS WITH BICARBONATES



# ACID INJECTION

- **SULFURIC ACID**
- **REACTS WITH CARBONATE AND BICARBONATE**
- **PREVENTS THE REMOVAL OF Ca AND Mg FROM SOLUTION**
- **PREVENTS INCREASE IN SAR**

# **SULFUROUS GENERATORS**



**HOW ABOUT WHEN Na  
IS LOW AND Ca & Mg  
ARE PRESENT AND  
BICARBONATES ARE  
HIGH?**

# **APPLICATION OF DRY SULFUR**

# ACIDIFICATION



7

**SULFUR**



# SULFUR

- **FERTILIZER**
  - **ESSENTIAL NUTRIENT ELEMENT**
- **ACIDIFYING AGENT**
  - **LOWERS pH**

# **SULFUR DEFICIENCY**

- **Light green to yellow leaves**
- **Yellow veins**
- **Slow growth**
- **Appears on younger leaves first**
- **N may intensify yellowing**

# **Sulfur From Precipitation in Midwest**

**12 - 15 lbs / Acre / Year**

# SULFUR

- **FERTILIZER**
  - **ESSENTIAL NUTRIENT ELEMENT**
- **ACIDIFYING AGENT**
  - **LOWERS pH**

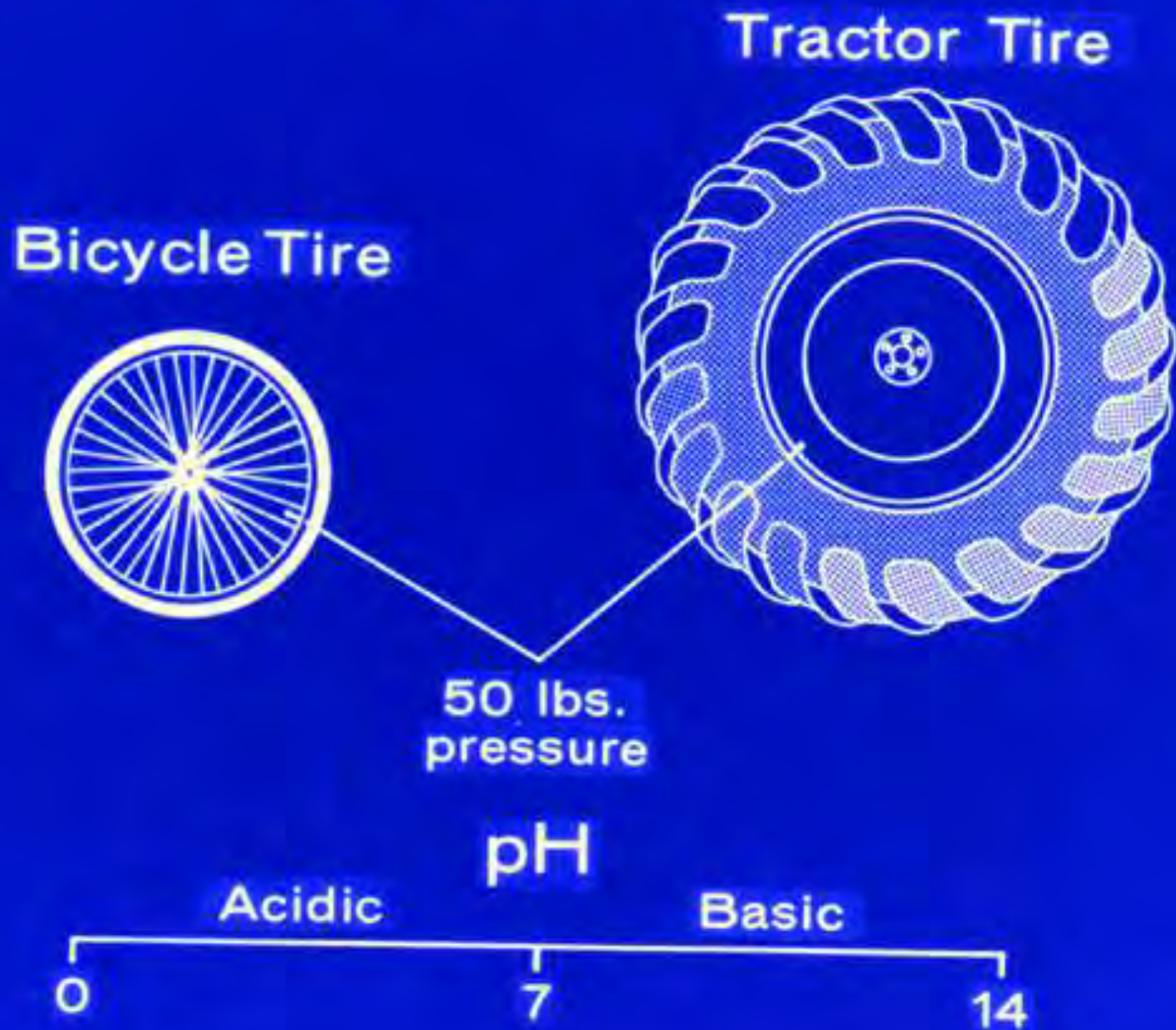
# ACIDIFICATION

SOIL MICROBES



7

# BUFFERING



# **AGRONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

## **–MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES**

- IRON (Fe)**





# SULFUR

- IF YOU NEED IT, USE IT
- IF YOU DON'T NEED, DON'T  
USE IT