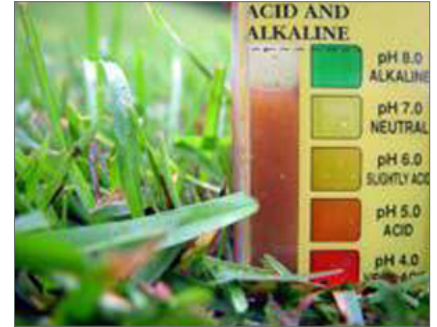


SOIL TESTING



Whether it is the extremes of winter or summer, or a random act from Mother Nature, significant environmental stress can be placed on turfgrass. This is usually combined with other stresses such as high levels of traffic. While there is little we can do to control some of these factors, we can control soil nutrition and eliminate it as a contributor to turfgrass stress. By using an analytical approach we can eliminate soil nutrition as a limiting factor in producing quality turf and optimal playing conditions.

Why soil test

Soil nutrition is the most critical factor in turfgrass health and performance. Knowing the physical and chemical properties of soil ensures the successful development and implementation of nutrient, irrigation and renovation programs as it guarantees your turf is receiving the nutrition it requires all year round.

A Soil Test provides a Turf Manager with the vital information required to create nutrient programs and identifying weaknesses and issues within the soil profile. Recommendations on the products and rates required to amend any issues can then be determined based upon the results. This ensure that your turf will receive the nutrition it needs to eliminate any imbalances and ensure healthy growth.

The desirable level of soil nutritional components to achieve optimal conditions is:

Cation	Optimum level (%)	Optimum level (ppm)
Calcium	68 - 72%	600 - 1000ppm
Magnesium	13 - 16%	50 - 150ppm
Potassium	3 - 5%	60 - 150ppm
Sodium	<3%	<30ppm
Hydrogen	4.5%	-

It is crucial that these nutrients are at the correct amount as too much of one nutrition can offset the balance of another and could result in plant death. Balancing soils nutritionally and achieving optimal soil conditions will produce healthier and stronger turfgrass that can better cope with any stress placed upon it. This will reduce the need for other inputs, such as fungicides, to maintain a quality playing surface and will allow better utilisation of applied fertilisers and other products.

Soil pH

pH is the measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution based on the concentration of the hydrogen ion. This is an important measure as it determines the availability of nutrients to your turfgrass. An optimal level for soil pH is around 6.5. At this level, all required nutrients are available to the turfgrass. Knowing the pH level of your turfgrass is important as pH problems can result in a general lack of vigour and a lack of response to applied nutrients. Generally speaking, there is always a cause for pH problems and these can be amended through an effective nutrition program.

Technigro, in conjunction with Nuturf Australia, offers complete turf maintenance programs. These programs include soil testing, species audit and the development and implementation of an appropriate nutrition program.

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