



Functions of Lime

Lime is primarily a soil amendment or conditioner and not a fertilizer, as is commonly thought. Lime performs several important functions:

1. Corrects soil acidity
2. Furnishes important plant nutrients—calcium and magnesium
3. Reduces the solubility and toxicity of certain elements in the soil such as aluminum, manganese, and iron. This toxicity could reduce plant growth under acid conditions
4. It promotes availability of major plant nutrients. Calcium acts as a regulator and aids in bringing about the desirable range of availability of many plant nutrients. Some elements which lime aids in regulating are zinc, copper, and especially phosphorus.
5. It increases bacterial activity and hence induces favorable soil structure and relationships. Soil structure is also improved by the addition of decayed organic matter or compost. The soil becomes more porous, increasing air circulation and the ability of the soil to absorb and hold moisture.

*Information provided by West Virginia University,
<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/hortcult/turf/liming.htm>*