

# SOIL TEST INFORMATION SHEET NO. C-160

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## Sorghum, Grain or Silage

1. The optimum soil pH for sorghum is 5.8-6.5. Agricultural limestone should be applied when the soil pH value is below 5.5. Limestone effectiveness is determined by the size of the particles and the Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (C.C.E.). The lime recommendation is based on a C.C.E. of 100. If the magnesium content of the soil is medium or lower, dolomitic limestone should be used. Do not overlime. Overliming can cause micronutrient deficiencies.
2. All the nitrogen can be applied preplant or at planting, or it can be applied in a split application, with one-half to two-thirds at planting and the balance when the plants are 10-12 inches tall. If nitrogen applications are split, it is important that the second application be made before the plants reach the 6-8-leaf stage.
3. All the recommended phosphorous and potassium fertilizer should be applied preplant or at planting.
4. For silage, the fertilizer recommendation is higher because the entire plant is removed from the field, which will deplete nutrients faster than when only grain is harvested.
5. Solid or liquid sources of fertilizer are essentially equal in their effectiveness to produce sorghum when applied in the same way.
6. Contact your county agent for additional information and help in your fertilization program. The agent also receives a copy of this report for the parish office files.