

SOIL TEST INFORMATION SHEET NO. P-270

Prepared by Extension Agronomist Edward Twidwell

Annual Legumes, Warm Season—Lespedeza, Cowpeas, or Alyceclover and Cool Season—Arrowleaf, Berseem, Crimson, Red, Subterranean, White Clovers, Alfalfa, Winter Peas, and Vetch

1. Low soil pH is more critical for legumes than for non-legumes. The soil should be limed when the pH is below 5.8 for best production. If alfalfa is grown, the soil should be limed to a pH of 6.5. Use dolomitic limestone if the soil test magnesium levels are medium or lower.
2. On soils with pH values above 5.8 (except alfalfa, which is 6.5) with a medium or lower level of magnesium, apply 20-30 pounds of magnesium per acre as sulfate of potash-magnesia (Sul-Po-Mag or K Mag).
3. For warm season legumes, apply recommended rates of phosphorus and potassium at planting or in the spring when growth starts. For cool season legumes, apply recommended rates of phosphorus and potassium in the fall before or at planting.
4. For alfalfa, split the potash recommendation into three parts. Apply one third in the fall, one-third after the first cutting, and one-third in late June.
5. Use 2-3 pounds of boron per acre if alfalfa is to be grown on recently limed soils.
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.