

SOIL TEST INFORMATION SHEET NO. V-370

Prepared by Extension Horticulturist James Boudreaux

Southern (Field peas) and Butter (Lima) Beans

1. These crops are sensitive to strongly acid soils, pH below 5.0. Production and pod quality may be adversely affected. Crinkled leaves, stunted growth and low yields with poor quality are symptoms of low soil pH. Symptoms may also be confused with virus diseases. Apply agricultural limestone if soil pH is below 5.5. On soils low in magnesium, dolomitic limestone should be used. Apply lime 2-6 months before planting.
2. **Nitrogen Fertilization**
Southern Peas: Apply 15 to 30 pounds of nitrogen per acre preplant may be used.

Over-fertilizing peas with nitrogen causes excessive vine growth and very little pod production.
Butter (Lima) Beans: Lima beans are not as sensitive to over-fertilization with nitrogen as Southern peas. Apply 30-40 pounds nitrogen per acre preplant.
3. 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.