

The Soil First Approach

S O I L F I R S T C O N S U L T I N G

Thank you for considering **SOIL FIRST CONSULTING** and **LOGAN LABS** for your soil testing needs. The following few pages will give you a clearer understanding on how best to interpret your results. Our programs are quite unique, with the basic premise simply being:

BALANCE THE CHEMISTRY – FEED THE SOIL!

Any good interpretive program begins with testing. When a doctor evaluates a patient, he always runs a battery of medical tests before making a diagnosis. It should be no different with your soil, which is why we call it **Soil First**. By developing and then evaluating a quality soil testing protocol, many unanswered questions are resolved and solutions can be reached. Our agronomists develop testing protocols that evaluate standard chemistry tests, along with water soluble soil tests and irrigation water tests before making nutrient management recommendations. This approach provides as much information as possible and allows us to make informed evaluations so that a **healthy solution** can be established.

SOIL FIRST CONSULTING is dedicated to the concepts of Biological Soil Management. A Biological Soil Management program provides the optimum soil environment to allow for the proliferation of beneficial microorganisms. These microbes are "the life of the soil" and are responsible for the breakdown of organic matter into usable humus. Humus helps to feed needed microbes, creating soil buffers, allowing for nutrient mobility, and most importantly, creating "checks and balances" for antagonistic pathogens. Providing food-stuffs to soil microbes is important, but the first step in providing microbes with the environment to allow for their growth is to balance soil chemistry. This is best done with a base saturation soil test, such as the standard soil test provided by **LOGAN LABS**.

Dr. William Albrecht did much of the research on the base saturation methodology. Dr. Albrecht was the Head of Agronomy at the University of Missouri and a founder of Brookside Labs. Soil First Consulting and Logan Labs are two of the few companies that are using Dr. Albrecht's philosophies and formulas for recommendations. Dr. Albrecht taught that until the chemistry of the soil is in balance, the soil could not provide the environment for an adequate population of beneficial soil microorganisms. For example, if the Ca: Mg ratio is not 7:1, equaling 80% base saturation, the movement of air and water into the soil will be significantly restricted. This imbalance will limit the growth of needed microbes. Feeding the soil is very important, but can be significantly limited by poor soil chemistry, thus our motto - "Balance the Chemistry – Feed the Soil."

LOGAN LABS offers a host of important soil tests. The Standard Soil Test is the basic soil colloid test, which describes the chemical "savings account." The lab also runs a Paste Extract Test, which is a water-soluble soil test that shows what nutrients may be soluble in the soil, or the chemical "checking account." The two tests together provide comprehensive information as to the overall health of the soil, and can be significant tools in balancing the soil. When comparing the two side by side, it is easy to see how nutrient mobility is affected by the health of the soil. Other important tests offered by Logan Labs include water, physical, tissue and nematode testing.

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