

Optimizing Your Overseed Requires the Use of Calcium

I wish I had a dollar for every time I've heard, "I had to go back and throw more seed because it didn't take the first time". The first question I always ask is "What do you think caused it"? Water, light, heat, traffic, fertility, seed, and a lot of other variables come into play when overseeding fails to germinate and establish uniformly. And guess what, applying calcium before or at time of seeding, helps 90% of the time. Now I say. "Have you applied your Calcium before your overseeding this fall"? "Do you want to increase the germination, uniformity, maturity, and overall plant survival by about 90%"?

Calcium should be considered the most important nutrient when it comes to getting the most out of your seeding project. It plays a major role in the physiology of the plant, strengthening its physical structure, increasing nutrient uptake and protecting from disease. The importance of calcium in the soil, includes; the reduction of soil compaction, increased water infiltration, and helping to provide a better environment for the proliferation of beneficial bacteria.

Calcium is more than just a buffer for pH...

Calcium neutralizes cell acids.
Every plant needs calcium to grow.
Once fixed, calcium is not mobile in the plant.
It is the carrier of all other nutrients to the plant.
Calcium helps create a healthy environment for your plants.
Calcium plays a critical metabolic role in carbohydrate removal.
Over fertilization of nitrogen and potassium will reduce calcium availability.
Calcium is not considered a mobile nutrient, but can leach with excess nitrogen.
Plant available calcium determines the uptake of all other nutrients into the plant.
If transpiration is reduced, the calcium supply to growing tissues will become inadequate.
Study after study shows calcium at the optimum level will decrease disease in most plants.
If the plant runs out of a supply of calcium, it cannot remobilize calcium from older tissues.
As calcium content in the plant drops so can the protein, mineral and energy levels of the plant.
You will usually find an increase in all mineral levels in a plant following the correction of low calcium.
It is an important constituent of cell walls and can only be supplied in the xylem sap (upward movement).

For the Plant –

For the Soil –

High levels of other cations such as magnesium, iron, sodium, and potassium can increase pH
A common misconception is that if the pH is high, adequate calcium is present
Calcium stimulates growth of "soil life", including nitrogen-fixing bacteria.
Calcium is found in many minerals in soil, but is relatively insoluble.
Greatly increases the availability of other nutrients in the soil
Calcium neutralizes and corrects soil acidity
Improves soil structure and quality
Improves water penetration
Prevents soil crusting
Reduces soil salinity