Optimising Soil Nutrition
Data Summary 2009 - 2010

NRM has reviewed the analytical data from agricultural soils analysed at the laboratory between June 2009 and May 2010 and a summary of the amount of soils with indices either at the optimum level for grassland and arable crop or below or above these limits is detailed in the pie charts below (levels as specified in the 8th Edition of the Fertiliser Manual)

Below are graphical representations of the mean results in the P, K and Mg status of arable and grassland soils from samples analysed by NRM over the last 15 years.

Conclusions should be drawn cautiously as this data was not necessarily representative of all UK fields and data collations were not statistically rigorous.
In reviewing this data alongside the optimum index as detailed in the Fertiliser Manual, set out below is the 15 year P, K and Mg status of arable and grassland soils indicating the percentage of soil samples analysed by NRM that are either at, greater than or below the optimum index.

Soil Organic Matter – the Elixir of Plant Life

The term Soil Organic Matter is generally used to represent the organic constituents in the soil, including undecayed plant and animal tissues, their partial decomposition products, and the soil biomass. Soil Organic Matter affects both the chemical and physical properties of the soil and its overall health by affecting soil structure and porosity, water infiltration rate and holding capacity, the diversity and biological activity of soil organisms and plant nutrient availability. Therefore Organic Matter has an essential role to play in improving the productivity of the soil.

Organic Matter declines in soils where the input of organic matter in crop residues or manures is less than loss through oxidation. This can occur where organic soils are cultivated or old grassland is ploughed up. For further information on the analytical services that NRM provides in the agricultural sector please contact our customer service team on:

Tel: 01344 886 338 Fax: 01344 890 972
Email: enquiries@nrm.uk.com Website: www.nrm.uk.com


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