Ca, Mg, Fe & pH SOIL SCREENING RESULTS

INTERPRETATION & NEXT STEPS

For North American Lawns, Gardens & Container Plants

PLANT GROUPS, pH TARGETS & FIRST CHECKS - PART 1

LAWNS — pH 5.0-7.0

Fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, ryegrass, Bermuda, zoysia, St. Augustine.
CHECK FIRST: Patchy color: check irrigation, compaction, shade and roots.

FRUITING VEGETABLES — pH 6.0-6.8

Tomato, pepper, eggplant and container vegetables.
CHECK FIRST: Blossom-end rot: check water swings, heat and roots before adding Ca.

CUCURBITS & LEGUMES — pH 5.8-7.0

Cucumber, squash, pumpkin, melon, beans and peas.
CHECK FIRST: Drought, heat or root injury may interrupt Ca movement.

LEAFY, COLE & ROOT CROPS — pH 6.0-7.0

Lettuce, spinach, kale, broccoli, cabbage, carrot and beet.
CHECK FIRST: Tip burn: check Ca and moisture. Older-leaf yellowing: check Mg.

HERBS — pH 6.0-7.0

Basil, cilantro, parsley, mint, oregano, thyme and rosemary.
CHECK FIRST: Check drainage, salts, watering and potting-mix age.

PLANT GROUPS, pH TARGETS & FIRST CHECKS - PART 2

FLOWERS & ORNAMENTALS — pH 5.5-7.0

Rose, hydrangea, petunia, marigold, zinnia and sunflower.
CHECK FIRST: Young-leaf yellowing: check high pH, roots, water and recent lime.

ACID-LOVING PLANTS — pH 4.5-5.5

Blueberry, azalea, rhododendron, gardenia and camellia.
CHECK FIRST: Do not lime automatically. High pH can limit Fe availability.

FRUITS & BERRIES — pH 5.5-7.0

Strawberry, raspberry, grape, apple, pear, peach and citrus.
CHECK FIRST: High pH, wet roots or cold soil can mimic an Fe concern.

INDOOR & CONTAINER PLANTS* — pH 5.5-6.5

Pothos, monstera, philodendron, snake plant, peace lily and succulents.
CHECK FIRST: Soil-based mix only. Check water, drainage, salts and light.

CANNABIS / HEMP — pH 6.0-7.0

Where legal; soil-grown only. Follow applicable laws.
CHECK FIRST: Ca: new growth. Mg: older leaves. Fe: young leaves. Check pH and roots.

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READ THE PATTERN - NOT ONE RESULT ALONE

Ca - NEW GROWTH

Low/Borderline plus damaged newest growth, tip burn or blossom-end rot. First check moisture swings, heat, salts and roots.

Mg - OLDER LEAVES

Low/Borderline plus yellowing between green veins on older leaves. Check acidic or leached soil, K/Ca balance, salts and aging.

Fe - YOUNGER LEAVES + pH

Low/Borderline - or Typical Range/High at pH 7.0-8.0 - plus yellowing between green veins on young leaves. Check high pH, cold or wet soil and roots.

pH - COMPARE WITH PAGES 1-2

Outside the preferred pH range, nutrient uptake can fall even when nutrients are present. Match the result to the plant group before changing the soil.

Use the screening level with the symptom - not by itself. Similar leaf symptoms can also result from water, roots, temperature, salts, disease or recent treatments.

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WHAT THE FOUR LEVELS MEAN

LOW	Concern rises when symptoms match. Retest before a major correction.
BORDERLINE	Monitor and retest. Do not make a major adjustment from one result.
TYPICAL RANGE	Not proof of plant sufficiency. Check pH, roots, water and site conditions.
HIGH	Do not add more until confirmed. Excess may cause imbalance or toxicity.

CONDITION MODIFIERS

HIGH-pH / CALCAREOUS | ACIDIC / LEACHED | COOL / WATERLOGGED
HEAT / DROUGHT / CONTAINERS | RECENT INPUTS / INVALID TEST

NEXT CHECKS BEFORE AN AMENDMENT

Retest unexpected results and compare with a healthy area. Check drainage, roots, water and recent products. Before a major lime, fertilizer or iron change, confirm with a professional lab or Cooperative Extension.

SCREENING USE ONLY. Ca/Mg/Fe levels are kit-specific screening categories, not plant diagnoses, laboratory analyses or fertilizer prescriptions. pH ranges are general targets. Use only with validated soil-based mixes. Cannabis/hemp: follow applicable laws.