# Correction of soil acidity with shell lime and dolomitic limestone in a Latossolo Vermelho distrófico in Paraná state, Brazil

Corrección de la acidez del suelo con caliza de concha y dolomítica en Latossolo Vermelho distrófico en el estado del Paraná, Brasil

> Gustavo Soares Wenneck<sup>1</sup>\*, Reni Saath<sup>2</sup>, Danilo César Santi<sup>1</sup>, Nathália de Oliveira Sá<sup>2</sup>, Larissa Leite de Araújo<sup>2</sup>

## ABSTRACT

Soil acidity is a limiting factor for agricultural production, and the correction is carried out by liming, with the variable response with characteristics of the soil and the source used. The study aimed to analyze the effect of liming on a Latossolo Vermelho distrófico (stands for the oxisols in soil taxonomy and Ferralsols in WRB-FAO). The experiment was conducted in a completely randomized design in a 2x2x3 factorial scheme, with two soil textures (medium and clayey), two types of limestone (dolomitic and shell), and three soil cover conditions (without cover, with corn residues, and with soy residues). Liming carried out considering the chemical characteristics of the soil, the neutralization power of the sources, and the quantity determined by the base saturation method. The data were submitted to analyses of variance, and the means were compared by the Scott-Knott test, with 5% significance. The acidity correction occurred in less time in clayey soil. The coverage on the soil surface influenced the acidity correction, with a dynamic response concerning the analyzed conditions. Shell and dolomitic lime showed adequate efficiency in correcting acidity in both soil textures, with non-standard differences in conditions.

Keywords: remaining biomass, Glycine max, liming, Zea mays.

#### RESUMEN

La acidez del suelo es un factor limitante para la producción agrícola y la corrección realizada por encalado, con respuesta variable con las características del suelo y la fuente utilizada. El estudio tuvo como objetivo analizar el efecto del encalado en un Latossolo Vermelho distrófico (significa los oxisoles en taxonomía del suelo y los ferralsoles en WRB-FAO). El experimento se realizó en un diseño completamente al azar en un esquema factorial 2x2x3, con dos texturas de suelo (media y arcillosa), dos tipos de calizas (dolomítica y concha) y tres condiciones de cobertura del suelo (sin cobertura, con residuos de maíz y con residuos de soja). El encalado se hace considerando las características químicas del suelo, el poder de neutralización de las fuentes y la cantidad determinada por el método de saturación de bases. Los datos fueron sometidos a análisis de varianza y las medias comparadas mediante la prueba de Scott-Knott, con una significancia del 5%. La corrección de la acidez se produjo en menos tiempo en suelos arcillosos. La cobertura en superficie influyó en la corrección de la acidez, con respuesta dinámica con relación a las condiciones analizadas. La caliza de concha y dolomítica mostraron una adecuada eficiencia en la corrección de la acidez en ambas texturas del suelo, con diferencias no estándar en las condiciones.

Palabras clave: biomasa remanente, Glycine max, encalado, Zea mays.

## Introduction

Tropical soils have acidity as a natural characteristic, which acts as a limiting factor depending on the availability of nutrients and the development of the root system of plants, requiring correction to support the agricultural production (Martins and Alves, 2015). Soil acidity is caused by

water, use of fertilizers with acidifying potential, by mineralization of organic matter, besides the reduction of cations content, such as calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), and potassium (K), by leaching and export by plants (Nolla *et al.*, 2015; Caries and Joris, 2016).

In weathered soils, such as oxisols, the presence of organic matter is fundamental for the stability of the system, being favorable for the physical,

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Program in Agronomy, Universidade Estadual de Maringá (UEM), Maringá, Paraná, Brazil.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Departament of Agronomy, Universidade Estadual de Maringá (UEM), Maringá, Paraná, Brazil.

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author: gustavowenneck@gmail.com

chemical, and biological quality of the soil. Regarding chemical composition, it acts on the adsorption of ions, reducing their leaching (Francisco *et al.*, 2016).

The preservation of the cover on the soil surface is one of the practices recommended in conservationist production systems, such as the no-till system (NT), with reflexes on soil conservation and reducing environmental impacts related to carbon sequestration. (Favarato *et al.*, 2016; Guimarães *et al.*, 2015). As a component of the production system, soil cover can influence soil chemical changes, such as correcting soil acidity, being a dynamic process and varying depending on the characteristics of the material (Nolla *et al.*, 2015; Cunha *et al.*, 2018; Guimarães *et al.*, 2015; Caries e Joris, 2016)

In this sense, the study aimed to analyze the dynamics of acidity correction in a Latossolo Vermelho distrófico of medium and clayey texture with different soil cover, using shell and dolomitic lime.

### Material and methods

The experiment was carried out in a greenhouse at the State University of Maringá (UEM), at 23°25' S, 51°57 'W, and an average altitude of 542 m, in Maringá-PR. It was adopted a completely randomized design in a 2x3x2 factorial scheme with four replications. Two soil textures (medium and clayey), three soil cover conditions (without cover, with soybean residues, and corn residues), and two types of limestone (dolomitic and shell) were evaluated.

The two soils, Latossolo Vermelho distrófico (Santos *et al.*, 2018) of medium and clayey texture, were collected in an annual crop production area in the 0-0.20 m layer. They were air-dried, sieved to remove foreign matter, homogenized, and stored in polyethylene containers with a capacity of 1 dm<sup>-3</sup>.

As soil cover, the soil residues of soybean and corn crops were collected in the field, submitted to drying in an air-forced circulation oven (65 °C for 72 hours), crushed, and distributed on the soil surface in an amount proportional to 3.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> soy and 20 t ha<sup>-1</sup> of corn, according to treatment.

The amount of lime applied was determined by the base saturation method, considering the chemical characterization of the soil (Table 1), characteristics of the adopted corrective sources (shell and dolomitic lime), and expected base saturation of 70% (V1). It was also considered the quantity proportional to

the volume of soil per container. After liming, the soil was moistened weekly until it reached humidity close to the field capacity.

From the second to the eighth month after liming, soil samples were collected, and the pH was determined using the KCl (1M) solution as an extractor as described by Claessen (1997). The data were submitted to the analysis of variance, and the means were grouped using the Scott-Knott test, with a significance of 5%, using the Sisvar software. (Ferreira, 2019).

## **Results and discussions**

From the results of variation in the functions of the lime sources (shell and dolomitic lime) and the method adopted, the actions of the progressive process in the Oxisol (LVd) of clayey texture were observed. In the second month after the lime application, the pH of untreated soil and with crop residues on the surface was higher than 5.7 (Table 2). The higher pH in soil covered with corn residues may be associated with a rapid decomposition. The correction of soil acidity from the calibration with dolomitic limestone in soils without cover proved to be more efficient, showing higher pH. Constant values in soils with soybean residues from the third to the sixth month were observed. In the soil with corn residues, the pH values were lower after the second month after calibration (Table 2).

The reaction of the lime in the soil and the response in the adequacy of acidity correlated with the reactivity of the material and leaching of causes in depth more evident in sandy soils (Centeno *et al.*, 2017). Reactivity is also related to the granulometry of the lime; for example, the liquid lime, which has microparticles, has a faster effect on the acidity correction, but it does not have a residual effect (Mantovanelli *et al.*, 2019).

In the third month, in all cover conditions and limestone sources, the soil pH was higher than 5.5, indicating that the dynamics of chemical and biological actions provided the maintenance of the soil in conditions favorable to agricultural production. Although it has no direct effect on the physical characteristics of the soil, such as resistance to penetration (Oliveira *et al.*, 2017), a calibration to correct the pH of the soil increases the availability of nutrients and favors the plant development, including the root system, influencing it indirectly (Guimarães *et al.*, 2015; Centeno *et al.*, 2017).

Soil texture	pН		Al	H+Al	Ca	Mg	K	SB <sup>1</sup>	CEC <sup>2</sup>	P	C
	H <sub>2</sub> O	KCl	-cmol <sub>c</sub> dm <sup>-3</sup> -						mg dm <sup>-3</sup>	g dm <sup>-3</sup>	
Medium	4.5	4.0	1.71	7.59	0.20	0.06	0.03	0.29	7.88	3.16	23.94
Clayey	5.0	4.7	0.28	3.30	0.85	0.36	0.04	1.25	4.55	2.60	11.57

Table 1. Soil chemical characterization.

Table 2. Soil pH by KCl method after shell and dolomitic lime application, in a Latossolo Vermelho distrófico with medium clayey under different soil cover.

0.11	Lime	Months after lime application							
Soil cover		2 <sup>nd</sup>	3rd	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	
Corn	Shell	5.42 cB	5.61 bB	5.71 bB	5.75 bC	5.82 aB	5.92 aB	5.90 aB	
Corn	Dolomitic	5.50 cB	5.78 bB	5.73 bB	5.90 bB	6.12 aA	6.39 aA	5.91 bB	
Corn	_	5.11 aC	5.00 aC	5.10 aC	5.03 aD	4.99 aD	4.92 aD	4.95 aD	
Soybean	Shell	5.32 bB	6.01 aA	5.89 aB	5.68 bC	5.62 bB	5.58 aB	5.48 bC	
Soybean	Dolomitic	5.64 bA	5.59 bB	5.79 bB	5.79 bC	5.99 aB	6.19 aA	6.02 aA	
Soybean	_	5.33 aB	5.39 aC	5.27 aC	5.12 aD	5.22 aC	5.34 aC	5.13 aC	
	Shell	5.89 bA	5.88 bB	6.05 aA	6.14 aA	6.26 aA	6.21 aA	6.09 aA	
_	Dolomitic	5.79 bA	6.03 bA	6.16 aA	6.15 aA	6.11 aA	5.87 bB	5.76 bB	
_	_	5.42 aB	5.43 aC	5.43 aC	5.35 bD	5.31 bC	5.33 bC	5.26 bC	
CV (%)		3.92	5.79	8.61	7.15	3.17	3.13	6.17	

<sup>\*</sup> Means followed by different lowercase letters in the lines and uppercase letters in the columns belong to different groups by the Scott-Knott test.

About liming over soybean residues, from the fifth month onwards, the shell limestone showed a downward trend, reaching a pH value of 5.48 in the eighth month, whose reduction may indicate the re-acidification process. Regardless of the soil texture, there was variation in the soil pH values in the treatments without application of lime during the period, observing in the Latossolo Vermelho distrófico with a clay texture oscillations of 3.13% in the pH values (Table 2) and 2.74% in the soil with medium texture (Tables 3).

When we analyzed the effects of liming using shell lime in medium texture, it found that the soil with soy residues on the surface presented pH values significantly lower than those of corn residues in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7t<sup>h</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> month. Based on the assumption that the source of the limestone and the soil texture has a direct interference in the corrective indexes, the indexes suggest actions of dynamic processes in the soil due to the management and residues of the cover plants. When the residues are decomposing, they alter the physical and chemical attributes of the soil, whose decomposition rates are

influenced by climatic variables, lignin/cellulose contents, C:N ratio, and characteristics of the lime. This hypothesis is supported by the observations that the constitution of the correctives influences changes in the contents of chemical components and on the soil microbiology (Barth *et al.*, 2018), with the dynamic interaction between the components involved.

Comparing the soil textures, in the soil of medium texture, pH values higher than 5.5 were obtained from the fourth month (Table 3), while in the soil with clayey texture in the second month after liming (Table 2), with responses associated with characteristics intrinsic to the soil, as cation exchange capacity (Centeno *et al.*, 2017).

The effects of liming are residual, reaching deeper layers without incorporation, even in degraded areas and with reflections for years after the application (Joris *et al.*, 2016), following the precepts of cultivation in conservationist systems. In medium-textured soils, the action of lime in depth can be favored by growing grasses (Nolla *et al.*, 2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>SB: sum of bases; <sup>2</sup>CEC: Cation Exchange Capacity.

C - :1	Lime	Months after lime application							
Soil cover		2 <sup>nd</sup>	3rd	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	
Corn	Shell	5.15 cA	5.48 bA	5.56 bA	5.97 bA	6.24 aA	6.56 aA	6.17 aA	
Corn	Dolomitic	4.83 bB	5.21 bB	5.59 aA	5.71 aA	6.00 aB	6.56 aA	6.36 aA	
Corn	_	4.23 aC	4.15 aC	4.07 aB	4.06 aB	4.04 aC	4.02 aD	3.92 aD	
Soybean	Shell	4.73 bB	4.93 bB	5.45 bA	5.71 aA	5.75 aB	5.79 aC	5.87 aB	
Soybean	Dolomitic	4.87 bB	4.97 bB	5.11 bA	5.55 aA	5.84 bB	6.07 aB	6.04 aA	
Soybean	_	4.06 aC	4.00 aC	4.13 aB	4.14 aB	4.08 aC	4.02 aD	4.07 aC	
_	Shell	5.30 bA	5.77 bA	5.85 bA	6.35 aA	6.52 aA	6.60 aA	6.40 aA	
_	Dolomitic	5.26 bA	5.36 bA	5.47 bA	5.78 aA	6.34 aA	6.18 aB	6.08 aA	
_	_	4.01 aC	4.14 aC	3.95 aB	3.92 aB	3.91 aC	4.08 aD	3.90 aD	
CV (%)		2.96	2.98	2.36	2.10	2.79	2.40	4.47	

Table 3. Soil pH by KCl method after shell and dolomitic lime application, in a Latossolo Vermelho distrófico with medium texture under different soil cover.

Splitting the amount of lime can increase the residual effect, adjusting pH, base saturation, and aluminum in deeper soil layers (Rheinheimer *et al.*, 2018). However, small amounts can have localized results and a restricted residual effect (Caries and Joris, 2016). Parizotto *et al.* (2018), analyzing the efficiency of the application of shell limestone in the sowing rows of beans, soybeans, corn, and wheat, did not find significant effects on the mass of grains when using limestone.

Considering the application with quantity according to the base saturation method and the total neutralization power of the correctives, liming with shell and dolomitic lime satisfied the pH correction in Latossolo Vermelho distrófico with medium and clayey textured, with the soil coverage influencing the process.

#### Conclusions

The dynamics of the pH values detected in the Latossolo Vermelho distrófico with clayey textured showed the shortest time for acidity correction.

Shell and dolomitic limestone showed an adequate corrective effect, regardless of soil texture.

The coverage of the soil surface influenced the correction of acidity after liming.

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