



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Six reasons to use gypsum on your fields this fall

CHICAGO...Farmers are learning that gypsum can improve soil tilth and water permeability of their fields, in addition to creating a better environment for biological activity deep into the soil profile.

Gypsoil™ brand gypsum is calcium sulfate dihydrate, $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, a byproduct of the process that cleans the air from coal-burning power utilities by removing sulfur dioxide (SO_2) from flue gases.

Over time, Gypsoil neutralizes metals and chemical salts and loosens soil to improve air and water movement throughout the soil profile. Nearly all heavy soils containing clay, including gumbo, can benefit from gypsum.

According to coal industry statistics, nearly 19 million tons of flue gas desulfurization (FGD) gypsum is produced annually.¹ As more and more utilities bring modern scrubbing systems online to comply with current clean air regulations, production of FGD gypsum is expected to dramatically increase. This means farmers have access to a large, steady supply for use on agricultural fields.

Here are six reasons to consider using gypsum on fields this fall:

1.) Gypsum helps fields sponge water. Fields with tight clay soils are easily compacted and can be prone to clumping and crusting. Drive by these fields after a heavy rain and you'll likely see many areas of ponding and run-off. MORE

“With gypsum, the soil structure becomes more sponge-like so even tight clay soils readily absorb water and move it down through the soil profile rather than allowing it to pond or run off,” says Ron Chamberlain, director of gypsum programs for Beneficial Reuse Management (BRM).

2.) Soil organisms will thank you. “Gypsoil balances the soil chemistry so that excess detrimental nutrients, such as magnesium, aluminum and sodium, are flushed away and replaced with calcium,” says Chamberlain. This not only loosens the soil but also improves the environment for soil organisms, including earthworms.

“We see more earthworm activity down deep in the subsoil which, in turn, opens up the soil for even deeper root growth and air and water movement,” Chamberlain says.

3.) Gypsum applications help unlock fertility. A balanced biological system helps soil breakdown plant residues into available nutrients in the root zone. “A healthy biological system also helps unlock previously-unavailable soil minerals for the plant’s uptake,” Chamberlain says. Gypsum also supplies calcium and sulfur to soils.

4.) Fields will be easier to work. Over time, soil that receives gypsum becomes more like porous, loose garden soil because of improvements in soil chemistry and biological activity. “Farmers notice how much easier it is to pull equipment through a gypsum-treated field,” says Chamberlain.

Soils dry down quicker in spring and between rains so fieldwork can start earlier or resume quickly after rain events.

Gypsum is especially helpful in no-till situations and many growers report they no longer have to rely on tools such as in-line rippers to fight compaction.

5.) Improve plant vigor. With gypsum, plants remain more uniform and vigorous throughout the growing season, even in the presence of weather extremes or weed, insect and disease pressure. “Vigorous, healthy crops mature more uniformly with a higher quality and quantity crop at harvest time,” Chamberlain says.

6.) Gypsoil is easy to apply. Gypsoil can be broadcast with a lime or litter spreader any time you can get into the field. The recommended rate is one to two tons per acre (every one to two years) depending on soil type. As a soil amendment, it can take applications for two years or more before the full benefit is realized. MORE

Gypsoil was founded in 2006 by Chamberlain and acquired by BRM in 2009. BRM identifies byproducts of various manufacturing processes that can be used in safe and effective ways to benefit land owners and conserve natural resources and preserve landfill space. Created as a byproduct of the eco-friendly process of producing electricity, Gypsoil is an ideal match for BRM.

For more information about gypsum, visit www.gypsoil.com.

Gypsoil's mission is to make a positive impact in our customers' soil while conserving natural resources and protecting the environment.

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1 American Coal Ash Association, 2008 Coal Combustion Product (CCP) Production & Use Survey Report.

™Gypsoil is a division and tradename of Beneficial Reuse Management LLC.

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PHOTO ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Gypsoil™ brand gypsum can be broadcast with a lime or litter spreader any time fields are suitable for working. Photo supplied by Gypsoil division of Beneficial Reuse Management LLC.

