POTENTIAL USE OF FGD GYPSUM IN AGRICULTURE

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SUMMARY

The performance of conservation tillage management systems is, in large part, dependent upon practices that stabilize the soil surface, improve infiltration and soil water storage capacity, ameliorate soil acidity problems, and provide an adequate supply of essential plant nutrients. The application of lime and fertilizer amendments to the soil surface for this purpose in no-till systems can be less than adequate due to excess time required for slowly soluble agricultural lime to dissolve and improve soil surface properties to the extent that water and nutrients can more rapidly move into and down the soil profile. As an alternative amendment to agricultural lime, fluidized gas desulfurization (FGD) gypsum can be used due to its high calcium and sulfur contents, and its much greater solubility than agricultural lime.