



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Harsco Environmental?

Harsco Environmental, a division of Enviro Corporation, is the largest and most comprehensive provider of onsite material processing and environmental services to the global metals industry, with operations at over 130 customer sites across more than 32 countries. Harsco Environmental is a technology partner delivering cleaner, more efficient metal production, providing customers with economically and environmentally viable solutions for the treatment and reuse of production co-products.

Is AgrowSil® the same as AgLime?

No. AgrowSil is an alternative to AgLime and can be superior to it in many ways. AgLime, which is calcium carbonate (CaCO_3), and AgrowSil, which is calcium silicate (CaSiO_3), both work to eliminate acidic soils; however, AgrowSil does so faster and more efficiently, with the added benefit of the silicon. Typically, AgLime has a relative neutralizing value (RNV) of 65-70% whereas AgrowSil's RNV is 80%, meaning AgrowSil can neutralize soil acidity more effectively. The calcium carbonate equivalent of AgrowSil is 100%, which refers to the acid-neutralizing capacity of an agricultural liming material expressed as a weight percentage of calcium carbonate.

What is silicon, and does it benefit my crop?

Silicon is a naturally occurring mineral and an essential plant nutrient that functions in both plants and the soil. In the soil, silica attaches to soil colloids, helping to reduce compaction and making tied-up nutrients more available. Silica also facilitates the faster and more efficient movement of calcium and magnesium through the soil, contributing to AgrowSil's high RNV. It also readily ties up toxic elements in the soil, like aluminum, to reduce soil toxicity. It is effective at releasing tied-up soil phosphorus (P) for plant uptake. In the plant, silica strengthens cell walls in the roots, shoots, and leaves, improving plant strength, health, and productivity. This also helps protect the plant from disease, drought, frost, and lodging potential.

Where does AgrowSil come from? Is it mined?

AgrowSil is not a mined product. Its parent material is a stainless steel furnace slag that undergoes proprietary aging processes, fine grind pulverizing, and extensive metal separation, which removes more than 99.95% of all metals.

Does the product contain heavy metals?

No. AgrowSil is analyzed weekly for its liming value, nutrients, and toxic metals. Plant tissue testing has not identified any significant increase in constituents of concern compared to those found with limestone use. In all cases, toxic metal levels in forages were at least 10 times less than concern levels (established by the National Research Council and the National Academy of Sciences) for the most sensitive terrestrial animal species evaluated. Increased levels of micronutrient elements (B, Cu, Mn, Mo, Zn) were all found to be well within the beneficial range for plant use.

How much can be safely applied to farmland?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that AgrowSil's leachable heavy metals content is lower than drinking water standards. According to the EPA, it can be safely used on farm fields at a lifetime rate of up to 83 tons per acre over time.

How is AgrowSil packaged?

AgrowSil is available as a finely ground material in bulk.

How is it applied?

AgrowSil is applied in the same manner as wet agricultural limestone, with a wet lime spreader.

Where can I find out more about AgrowSil?

If you have questions or would like to learn more about AgrowSil, you may contact Harsco Environmental at (800) 850-0527.