

January 01, 2008

## New Soil Test Rating System

*Prepared and approved by the Ontario Soil Management Research and Services Committee, June, 2007.*

The categories for analytical values on soil test reports have changed to reflect the probabilities of response to added nutrients. In the past, the categories grouped together according to the amount of nutrient extracted. Note that this change does not affect the fertilizer recommendations for each crop.

The rating based on probability of response will be specific to each crop (or group of crops), because there are differences in the way these crops respond to added fertilizer. For soil test reports where the crop to be grown has been indicated, the response category shown in Table 1 will be displayed on the report beside the numeric value for the soil test.

The following table relates the current ratings to the new ratings. Agri-Food Laboratories as an Accredited Laboratory is required to make these changes. Until our programmer has an opportunity to update our system, please use this table in the interim.

Table 1 (*amended*)

Current rating	Response Category	Probability of profitable response to applied nutrients
Low (L)	High Response (HR)	High (most of the cases)
Medium (M)	Medium Response (MR)	Medium (about half the cases)
High (H)	Low Response (LR)	Low (few of the cases)
Very High (VH)	Rare Response (RR)	Rare (very few of the cases)
Excessive (E)	No or Negative Response (NR)*	Not profitable to apply nutrients*