



LIME CAKE

Biosolid Fertiliser

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DiGiT
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Guidance Booklet



Introduction

Digit Resource Management Ltd (DRM) are at the forefront of recycling and environmental management services specifically tailored to agriculture. Our aim is to recycle suitable organic materials to agriculture, lessening farms reliance upon imported chemical fertiliser. Benefits include a reduction in growing costs and the lessening of your enterprises carbon footprint.

DRM has earned a reputation for offering sound technical expertise and providing sustainable, cost effective solutions that empower clients to manage their businesses in compliance with the increasing burden of environmental legislation.

Lime Cake

Our product is the lime stabilised solid fraction from sewage treatment works. The material is a slow release fertiliser, high in Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Sulphur and organic matter with the added benefit of an acid neutralising capacity up to the equivalent value of 15% normal agricultural limestone. It has undergone an enhanced treatment process recognised by the Water Industry and legislators to enable its recycling to agriculture. (see Table 2)



Advice to farmers and growers

Guidance

The storage and use of lime cake on land is a wide spread practice in the UK. There are statutory regulations and restrictive management practices surrounding its application to land, but the potential benefit from its valuable fertiliser and soil conditioning properties merits its use.

The suitability of any field for lime cake is assessed from:

- 1 Chemical Analysis of lime cake and receiving soil as per Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations.
- 2 Matching crop requirement with soil type, soil nutrient status and previous crops
- 3 Assessing appropriate application method, type, spread rate and timing (as per relevant codes of practice).

The application of lime cake is regulated by the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (As amended), along with the Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2010.



Advice to farmers and growers

Guidance in Scotland is provided by the PEPPA Code and CoGAP's in the rest of the UK, the Code of Practice for the Agricultural Use of Sewage Sludge and finally the BRC Safe Sludge Matrix.



A combination of the latest technology and equipment ensures that DRM provides a service that operates and functions at the highest level of Quality, Environmental and Health & Safety Management Systems enabling full compliance with all the relevant legislation and statutory requirements. To ensure legislative compliance DRM is an ISO 9001, 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certified company and also Achilles Registered.

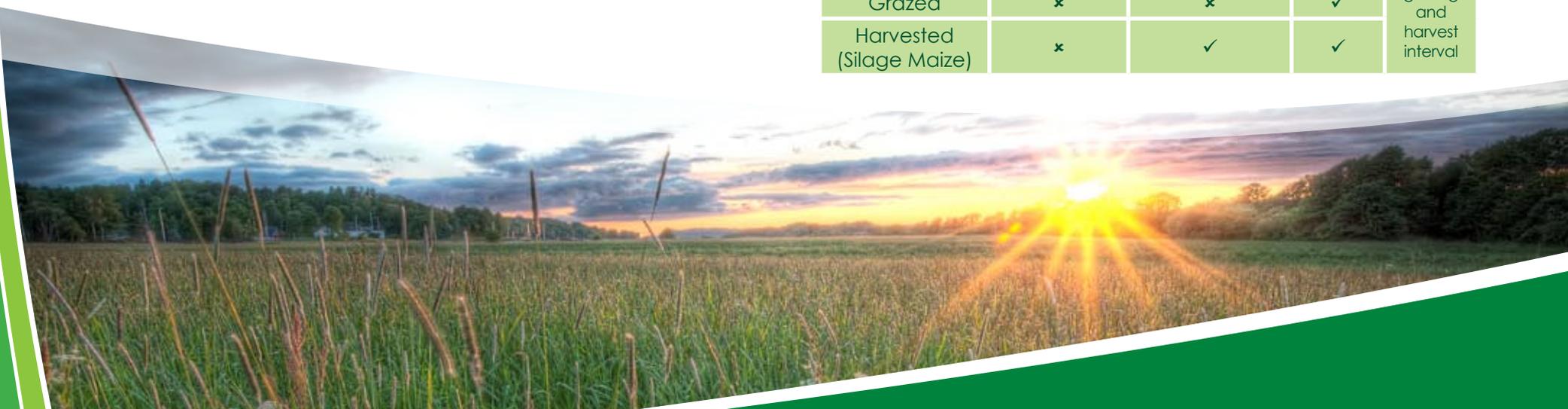
Lime cake's status as a recognised slow release fertiliser can benefit most cropping enterprises. It is commonly used on cereals, OSR, grassland and fodder crops.

Table 1.
Typical Nutrient Levels in Lime Cake
(for guidance only)

	Total Nutrients kg			Available Nutrients (Year 1)		
	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O
Lime Cake	9	8	0.5	2	4	0.5
Kg/t (up to)	9	8	0.5	2	4	0.5

Table 2.
The Safe Sludge Matrix

Crop Type	Sludge Type			
	Untreated	Conventionally treated	Enhanced treated	
Fruit	x	x	✓	10 month harvest interval applies
Salads	x	x	✓	
Vegetables	x	x	✓	
Horticulture	x	x	✓	
Combinable & animal feed crops	x	✓	✓	
Grass & Forage				3 week no grazing and harvest interval
Grazed	x	x	✓	
Harvested (Silage Maize)	x	✓	✓	



Advice to farmers, landowners and growers

Benefits

Benefits following the use of Lime Cake on Agricultural Land.

- 1 An increase in crop yield and quality.
- 2 An improvement in the physical and chemical properties of the soil
- 3 Improvement of water holding capacity of soil.



Lime Cake is a useful source of major plant nutrients which increase crop yield and quality. A crop will benefit from these major nutrients directly after spreading and over a much longer period than conventional "bag" fertiliser.

The nutrients from Lime Cake will not alone be sufficient to support plant growth. The farmer may add to these to provide the crops total requirements.



Advice to farmers, landowners and growers

Lime Cake also contains significant levels of organic matter. Increasing soil organic matter improves the physical properties of the soil, increases the friable range and the effective field work window. It also helps the formation of soil pores therefore increasing root contact which promotes nutrient availability. It also assists to bind soil particles loosely together, stabilising the soil which reduces surface run-off and the risk of pollution.

The available water holding capacity of the soil also benefits from increasing the organic matter content.

Lime Cake, by definition, has liming qualities with a moderate neutralising value. It is important to maintain an optimum pH as plant growth and yield can be seriously affected when crops are grown below their pH tolerant level.

Other uses

Lime Cake can also be utilised in forestry and restoration projects. Do not hesitate to speak to DRM's forestry and restoration specialists for further advice.

The next move

Contact DRM today so that we can further discuss your requirements and offer specific advice.

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