

Name _____

Soil pH Measurement



The term pH refers to a way of measuring how acidic (acid) or alkaline (base) a certain solution is. How acidic or alkaline a solution is depends on the relative concentration of just two ions, these ions are the hydrogen ion (H^+) and the hydroxide ion (OH^-).

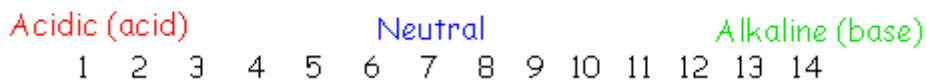
If these two ions are found to be in equal concentrations in a solution then it is said to be neutral, fresh water is neutral.

If the concentration of hydrogen ions is greater than the concentration of hydroxide ions the solution will be acidic and if the hydroxide ions are greater than the concentration of hydrogen ions the solution will be alkaline (base).

pH is measured on a pH scale, which generally ranges from 1 through to 14.

Water, being neutral has a pH reading of 7; acids have a pH below 7 and alkaline have a pH reading of above 7.

The pH Scale



The soil pH is very important to plants; most plants grow best in soils that are just slightly acidic.

Write three reasons why the pH of soil is important to plant growth:

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____
