

Soil is acidic

Causes of acidic soil:

- Soils developed from acidic rocks like granite are Acidic in nature.
- Heavy rains or irrigation leach down bases and Lime deep within the soil, thereby, increasing Soil acidity.
- Application of Ammonium sulphate and Ammonium Chloride as fertilisers also causes increase in Soil acidity.
- The decomposition of organic matter, present in The soil, by various microorganisms results in The production of organic acids, which may also Increase soil acidity.

Effects of soil acidity on plants:

- Soil acidity has a toxic effect on root tissues.
- It affects the permeability of cations from plant Membranes.
- Soil acidity also changes the ratio between basic And acidic components within plants.
- It adversely affects beneficial soil microorganisms.
- Aluminium, manganese and iron are highly Soluble in acid medium, and thus, become toxic.
- Soil acidity lowers calcium and potassium content In the soil.
- The availability of phosphorus, copper and zinc in The soil is affected due to soil acidity.
- Plant diseases are also more prevalent in Acidic soils.

Correction of soil acidity:

Soil acidity can be corrected by liming. Lime is applied Into soil at the time of land preparation or in ploughed Land. About 1,500 kg lime per hectare is required to raise The pH of the soil by one unit. Limestone, burnt lime or Slaked lime can be used to correct the acidity of the soil. Lime increases phosphorus, nitrogen, potassium and Molybdenum content in the soil.