pH - Fact sheet



pH is a scale that determines the acidity and alkalinity of water and other substances, it is important as it an early demonstrator of the effect of pollution on waterways. Water with a low pH will be acidic and start to affect the plants and organisms that will survive in low pH conditions. pH also determines the solubility and biological availability of nutrients such as phosphorus and metals such as cadmium and lead.

Industrial pollutants and acid rain can affect the pH of water as well as other chemicals. The disturbance of acid sulphate soils will also increase the pH of waterways.

# One thing you can do

Ensure acid sulphate soils when disturbed are adequately protected, ensure household chemicals are disposed of correctly.

# References

https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/management/soil/soil-properties/ph-levels

<https://water.usgs.gov/edu/ph.html>