

Product to Increase Phosphorus Availability

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With current high phosphorus prices, many producers are looking at ways to either cut the amounts of phosphorus they apply, or make the phosphorus they apply more available to the crop. Servi-Tech consultants have been looking at a product called Avail over the past few years, which looks promising.

One of the biggest problems with phosphorus is: knowing exactly how much is available to the plant. Always start with a good soil sampling program. Phosphorus availability is often times lower in strong acidic and alkaline soils because of increased phosphorus reactivity with soil and the formation of insoluble compounds with aluminum and iron in acid soils, as well as calcium in alkaline soils. The pH considered to be “perfect” for phosphorus availability is between 6 and 7 pH. Avail can help availability and yield potential in those times when things are not “perfect.”

Avail is a dicarboxylic copolymer. The idea is that the high charge density of the avail polymer reduces the activity of phosphorus fixing cations in the soil solution, leaving more phosphorus applied, available to the plant. Avail can be applied to both granular and liquid phosphorus sources and works for 10 months or one growing season. It can be applied in fall or spring and can be broadcast or banded.

Several Servi-Tech consultants are currently working with their producers on farm trials for this product. Talk to your Servi-Tech agronomist about this product or other new products on the market that may increase profits on your farm.