

## Got Milk?

### **Got Milk? Turf and Calcium Fertilizer**

Dotted throughout the professional trade journals right now are products touting the potential benefits of calcium fertilization on turf. Calcium plays an integral role in cell wall development. Theoretically, this implies the more calcium in the system, the thicker the cell walls of turf plants and the better the traffic tolerance of those plants. However, I have not seen any data verifying this claim. Limestone is the parent material for most of the soils throughout much of IN and the Midwest. Therefore calcium is at adequate, if not at excessive levels, in our soils. Consistent with my philosophy of not applying pesticides or N, P, and K fertilizer when none is justified, Calcium should not be applied when it is not justified. Furthermore, a recent study at Iowa State on soils high in calcium revealed that frequent calcium applications did not increase the amount of calcium taken up by the turf.

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