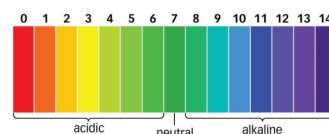


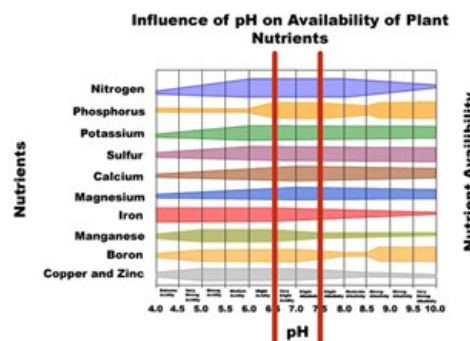
## pH Myths Debunked

**MYTH-1:** When someone (i.e. another supplier) says their compost is ‘pH balanced’ or has a ‘neutral pH’, this likely means that their compost has not finished composting. They are selling you unfinished compost, and your plants will suffer when planted in this type material.

**WHY:** As matter decomposes on its way to becoming compost, pH naturally rises to approximately 8.4 - 8.6. Decomposing ‘low pH’ material is unstable by nature, and harmful to plants for approximately 2 years when planted directly into. After the 2-year stabilization period typically seen when unfinished compost is distributed within a bed, the material will finally mature and will be considered safe for plants, but who has 2 years? Therefore, if you have been sold compost that has a low pH, without specifically causing the pH to be low, the material is unfinished/unstable, which will cause nitrogen-rob from plants, oxygen depletion from within the root zone, and rapid shrinking of the beds, all of which will lead to plant stress, chlorosis or death. This is how nature works.



**SOLUTION:** SBS performs certain trade secrets on its compost during its extensive and proprietary composting process to arrive at a pH that is neutral. When blended into our highly alkaline soils the resulting compost/soil mix will allow the plants to most efficiently take-up the abundant nutrients that are contained within the compost, while unleashing the otherwise chemically-unavailable yet plentiful nutrients that are in the surrounding native soil.



**MYTH-2:** When someone states native plants will do well in native soil (i.e. clay-based & high pH), this means the plants will survive and perhaps even grow, but they will not necessarily thrive or rapidly reach their full potential.

**WHY:** Planting in a pH neutral soil will allow plants to absorb nutrients most efficiently. As the pH moves further away from the neutral point (7.0), the higher or lower pH (alkaline / acid) causes nutrients to be chemically tied up. Even well adapted native plants will grow more vigorously and more healthily when planted in a neutral pH soil, because they will be able to naturally feed more efficiently and absorb nutrients more fully. This is how nature works.

**SOLUTION:** SBS’ pH Balanced Product Line provides a solution for every application, so that no matter how you intended to amend the soil for your native plants (i.e. till in compost, plant into a container, or import new soil to plant directly into), you can be assured that your plants will be happily growing in a neutral pH.

Call the SBS staff to explore these myths further, and to avoid the pitfalls of the erroneous hype.

Click SPECIALS DEALS on our homepage to see December Special!