COMMENT AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Method to Obtain Variable Tension in Tension Plate Lysimeters

In a recent article by P. H. Cochran, Giles M. Marion, and Albert L. Leaf, “Variations in Tension Lysimeter Volumes,” Soil Sci. Soc. Amer. Proc. 34:309–311, 1970, it was noted that the use of a constant suction of 0.1 bar to operate tension lysimeters added to the observed variations.

I would like to point out that a variable tension can easily be obtained by control of the float of the Cartesian manostat by a porous cup soil moisture sensor. Simply connect the moisture sensor into the waterfilled float by way of the vent located at the bottom of the manostat. Tensions of more than 0.1 bar from the moisture sensor will pull the float down into the mercury, open the vacuum valve, and create higher tensions in the lysimeter plates until again in equilibrium with the moisture sensor. Of course, applied suction levels can go only as high as water columns in tubing and lysimeters allow without breaking.

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HANS RIEKERK
College of Forest Resources
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98105

The Degree of Mixing of Lime Affects the Neutralization of Exchangeable Aluminum

I read with interest the paper “Exchangeable Aluminum as a Criterion for Liming Leached Mineral Soils” by E. J. Kamprath (Soil Sci. Soc. Amer. Proc. 34:252–254, 1970) and the letters to the editor by E. O. McLean and E. J. Kamprath (ibid., 363–364). Studies on acid soils in western Washington agree with Kamprath to the extent that the...