

## INCREDIBLE Ph REPORTS this version 10/30/09

The soil scientists from the USDA Soil Conservation Department visited private property east of Shasta Lake, California, on October 27, 2009. Mr. Bailey, Komar, and Owens tested the pH with standard federal meters. All agreed the pH should be 5.5.

Under Douglas fir, the ph was 7.4, astoundingly basic for that habitat.

Under Ponderosa pine, at the precise soil-needle interface, I would expect a pH of 5. At that point, Bailey's meter showed 6.5. This is high for a microhabitat that should be very acid. Old soil surveys indicate this soil should be very acid, around pH of 5.5.

I bought a house in Mt. Shasta old black oak/pine pasture in 2002, tested the pH at below 6, good for vegetable gardening. It was a major reason for purchase, and proceeded with highly acid composting of leaves and grass to drive the pH down or at least keep it low, as every master gardener knows. I added a touch of sulfur and avoided wood ash to insure acidity, and proceeded to teach organic gardening courses out of my yard though COS. The pH tests were an embarrassment because now my garden is pH 7, sometimes higher. This is the opposite of what should happen.

The pH meter of Jon McClellan proceeded to show pH in McCloud gardens also running close to 7 or 8, which is too high for heavy organic mulch with no ashes. General lawns were also running over pH 7 under oaks and pines and fir trees. This is contrary to everything I learned in college and the Soil Conservation Service for 35 years. The old data sheets say these soils should be running a pH of 5-6.

I tested my rainwater in a plastic NWS rain gauge set high on a pole, and got 1010 ug/l aluminum, with substantial amounts of barium and strontium included, where it should be non-detectable. Others from the West Coast have similar repeated results, from the Bay Area to Washington. The McCloud/Mt. Shasta area got snow at 61,000 ug/l, and a Shasta Lake pond got 375,000 ug/l of aluminum. EPA-approved lab tests are true.

The situation is widespread, so it is not a point source. At night you see a whitish gray sheen on a car window with a flashlight. Astronomy clubs get "night sparkles" in laser lights. It's too thick to be Chinese. Something is coming down in a rain of dust, and it looks like aluminum so fine you can't normally see it.

I am concerned about our lungs and asbestosis/asthma. Autism. Alzheimer's. Drought enhancement. Our agricultural soil is degrading and trees are dying from bad fungi, bacteria, or lack of good ones. As a farmer told me, "The bugs are the wrong kind."

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