

**Aragonite** is a calcium carbonate mineral (like limestone) that comes from seashells, such as oyster shell. It is used in lieu of lime in situations where the soil is already high in magnesium, and where dolomite (high magnesium limestone) is the only liming material available. Aragonite has approximately 94-97 percent of the neutralizing value of CaCO<sub>3</sub>. Applications should be made in accordance with a soil test. Aragonite is also used to protect newly planted bulbs from damage caused by moles, mice, chipmunks, and squirrels. Aragonite is used as a soil conditioner and feed supplement and is not registered as a fertilizer.

Contents	Percent by Weight	Mesh Size	% Retained
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	94-97	4	0-1
MgCO <sub>3</sub>	0.5-1.5	8	1-4
SiO <sub>2</sub>	0.02-0.08	16	3-11
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.008-0.025	30	10-26
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.02-0.15	50	40-67
SO <sub>3</sub>	0.10-0.20	100	80-98
NaCl	0.06-0.25	140	93-99
Moisture	5.0-10.0	200	99-100

Aragonite is also used as a feed ingredient for chickens. The coarse grade is preferred for layers and the finer grade is fed to broilers.

The aragonite is comprised of a variety of mollusks, gathered from the ocean floor, and contains no more than 15% oyster shell. The mollusks are pulverized by the ocean's waves, the debris settles on the ocean floor and then is harvested. Determining the exact percentage of oyster shell in aragonite is impossible.