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LIMING.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE.

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THE term "lime," though it usually refers to the burnt, oxide, quick, or caustic form of lime, through long usage of this form for building and agricultural purposes, in reality embraces various salts of the metal calcium. In nature calcium is found principally in two forms—as calcium carbonate (limestone) and as calcium sulphate (gypsum). By far the greater portion of this metal is found in the carbonate form, and this is of organic origin, being for the most part the remains of early minute marine life known as foraminifera.

Lime has been used for agricultural purposes since the dawn of agricultural history, and it is interesting to note here that in those early times and onwards it was the calcium carbonate, in