The performance target of the soil, combined with a simple test to establish soil texture, will determine if or how much pumice is needed to change the texture and enhance soil function.

Mitigating compaction and runoff and enhancing the ability of the soil to support plant life requires a friable silt loam texture. For example, engineered ecology embankments, biofiltration swales and roadside filtration strips function best with sandy-loam textured soils.

The nature of pumice itself—a lightweight, foamed-glass stone riven with tiny vesicles—means it also works to improve water- and nutrient-holding capacity and enhances root-zone respiration by resisting compaction.

Economical and effective, the right amount of pumice will condition the soil to fit the need.