

IS WINTER SALT KILLING YOUR LAWNS AND PLANTS?

Research Project Finds Gypsum Neutralizes Effect of Road Salt

A two-year research project financed by the State Highway Commission and carried out by Dr. Frederick Hutchinson, Chairman of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Maine, finds that gypsum when applied to roadsides subject to winter road salt, effectively reduces the sodium level of the soil.

The study was aimed at the sodium in the road salt because sodium ions tend to become trapped in soils, are toxic and plants in high concentrations and cause "cementing" of the soil: Chloride ions, on the other hand, quickly disperse in water and are carried away with no significant build up.

The research was carried out on three plots of ground adjacent to highways in the state. The gypsum was applied in different amounts to a maximum rate of 14 tones per acre. Soil samples were taken for analysis before and after treatment; samples as well were taken from untreated plots of ground.

In each instance, reports Dr. Hutchinson, there was a significant reduction in the sodium level during the period of the test where gypsum was applied.

Gypsum, a traditional soil amendment, remains in place because of its low solubility therefore its effect should be long lasting.

Limestone was tested as well as gypsum during the test, but it was found to have no significant effect on the sodium level of the soil.

TREES HAVE REAL FINANCIAL VALUE

Tree and Landscape Appraisers, 232 Southern Building, Washington, D.C., tell us if you suffer tree or shrubbery loss from storms, vandalism or accident, you can collect up to \$500 a tree. A homeowner's insurance claim or federal income tax deduction will place a value on your loss. To get the maximum allowed in case an insurance claim is made, it is advisable to take pictures of the healthy trees and shrubbery.

I am pleased to report that Don Pakkala, Golf Course Superintendent at Medinah Country Club, is a new Green Section Committeeman this year. The functions of a Green Section Committeeman are many, ranging from administrative details such as inviting new clubs to utilize the services of the USGA in general and the Green Section in particular ... to simply wave the USGA flag anywhere they go. These committeemen serve as volunteers and receive no other payment other than knowing that they are serving the game of golf.

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North Central Region, USGA Green Section

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MAKING EMPLOYEES MOTIVATE THEMSELVES

You can't motivate your employees, but you can change the work climate so employees motivate themselves. It's a matter of creating an effective work climate and making your managerial expectations clear.

Offer clear directions so that employees know what to aim for, rather than forcing them to guess and perhaps make poor decisions. If they know that personal attention is being given to their work, they will take more pride in it.

Show by example what you consider important because your workers will emulate your work patterns. If you come to work late every day, how can you expect your employees to report on time?

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