

Texas super uses sulphur on sodium in water supply

DALLAS — Randy Thompson, superintendent at The Cliffs in Possum Kingdom, Texas, recently found a solution to high sodium content in the course's water supply.

He solved it by applying 10-0-0-18, a high sulphuric acid content fertilizer manufactured by The Greensmiths, located here.

"We had golden brown fairways last summer, and some black layer problems," remembers Thompson, "and there was nothing we could do. Now, everything's green, and it's a world of difference."

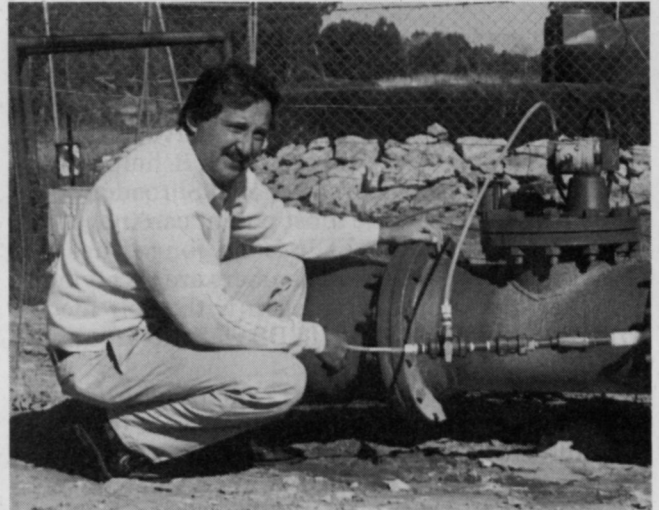
Thompson says The Cliffs' water is also high in carbonates, which is usually associated with high salt content. "As the pH

starts to increase," explains Thompson, "the carbonates precipitate and shrink the soil. It gets to a point where you can't get any infiltration. The 10-0-0-18 lowers the pH of the water, acts as a wetting agent, and dissolves the carbonates."

Jim Montgomery, chief executive officer of The Greensmiths, says the product contains 55 percent sulphuric acid, with 18 percent as elemental sulfur.

"We use it to acidify the water, to adjust the pH to a neutral or slightly acidic value," he notes. "But we're not going in there to pump a lot of acid into the soil. We're using nature's balance to bring everything back on an even keel."

"Although sulphuric is



Randy Thompson checks the fertilizer injector used on The Cliffs. A holding tank can be seen in the background.

extremely strong acid, it's safe to use once it's adsorbed (chemically bonded)."

Thompson says the 10-0-0-18 helped to lower the soil's sodium absorption ratio. "By disassociating the

sodium and carbonate ions and allowing the sodium to be leached, you get a good deep watering."

Montgomery says that Greensmiths is probably the only fertilizer company to address specialty soil



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problems that are industrial in nature, such as a toxic chemical spilled in the soil or an oil refining

site that's collected too much oil in the ground. "We manufacture a number of acid fertilizers be-

cause they're not available from other sources," Montgomery notes.

—Terry McIver

A tradition of excellence

WESTLAKE, Ohio — "Any guy," John Kramer says, "can put a shovel in the trunk of his car and call himself a landscaper. Landscapers have a very poor image. They (the un-professional ones) ruin it for those of us who've been in it for a long time. We have a good industry; there are a lot of good landscapers out there."

As founder/president of Kramer's Landscaping and Nursery Co. here, Kramer has upheld a tradition of excellence and professionalism. He's won numerous awards, from the American



John Kramer talking professionalism: "We have a good industry. There are a lot of good landscapers out there."


Landscape Contractors Association, the Association of Nurserymen and the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland.

For Kramer, professionalism extends to daily appearance, and he has always conducted business in a shirt and tie.

"I'm not trying to impress anyone, I'm trying to upgrade our image, to let people know we're as good as any other profession," he notes.

Kramer agrees that industry associations need to be more active in improving professionalism, but they have difficulty getting people to respond and participate. "A small percentage of them do, but you don't get enough of them to cover this area."

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Assignments cover basically all kinds of planting. This past summer, Kramer's men were busy landscaping quite a few newly-built residential homes now waiting for buyers.

One past assignment has become something of a Kramer's signature project. The grounds surrounding St. Bernadette's Church in Westlake was beautifully designed and landscaped, with a large pond to receive drainage from the parking area. Kramer found he needed an area to receive water runoff from the new parking lot, and suggested digging a large pond to collect the water. An aerator was installed, and a parishoner supplied two swans

who took up residence inside the fence.

Decorative mounds were built with dirt left over from the pond construction. Flower and tree arrangements close the public meeting area off from the lot, and provide an appropriately serene setting for churchgoers.

Kramer's is also known for its nursery, which is open to the public daily. Passers-by can view seven acres of trees, shrubs and ornamental and shade trees.

John Kramer's thoughts on the landscaping industry have been formulated and refined during his 40 years of experience. He's seen the best and the worst the industry has to offer, and is an ardent supporter of professionalism. When he sees something less than that, he becomes concerned.

Kramer thinks builders

are becoming more conscious of landscaping as an important part of a project.

"Even fast food chains try to outdo each other in the landscaping of each franchise," Kramer says. "I guess if everybody can get interested and active and stay at it, maybe we can turn it around."

—Terry McIver

The GCSAA will bestow its highest honor, the Old Tom Morris Award, in February. **Sherwood A. Moore**, a 50-year member, will be so honored. Moore has been super at Winged Foot Golf Course in Mamaroneck, N.Y., Woodway C.C. in Darien, Conn. and The Captains G.C. in Brewster, Mass. Recently retired as acting agronomist for the USGA Green Section, Moore continues to work as a consultant at The Captains. □

Industry must wake up, now!

To the editor:

An open letter to the National Arborist Association (see "NAA Set to Battle OSHA Regulation," October LM):

As usual, this industry views any regulation as an affront to its existence.

Our only method of response is "defense fund" and "battle" mentality.

The OSHA-proposed Vertical Standard regulations seem to make sense to me. Especially the CPR requirement. Having a security rope and the necessary training to do work around electricity should have been required long ago.

In our shortsighted effort to be competitive, we always seem to balk at spending a few dollars for the employees' benefit. And then tell them it's the "bad-guy regulators" or us.

You seem to wonder why this industry doesn't have new people interested in "filling the shoes" of older employees. First, if you trained people and then paid them what they're worth and then charged the proper price for services, you would be playing on a more even field. If you hire \$4.50-an-hour people, that's just what you'll get. Do you really think that a person qualified to (1) mix dangerous chemicals, (2) apply those chemicals without common-sense protection, and (3) bust their butts for you should make \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year?

This industry best wake up and start treating its hardest workers with a little respect and a lot more money and charging accordingly.

If you took a little initiative and worked with regulators, the resulting legislation might not seem so restrictive.

Steve G. Shegitz
Metro Turf
Dimondale, Mich.

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