

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."

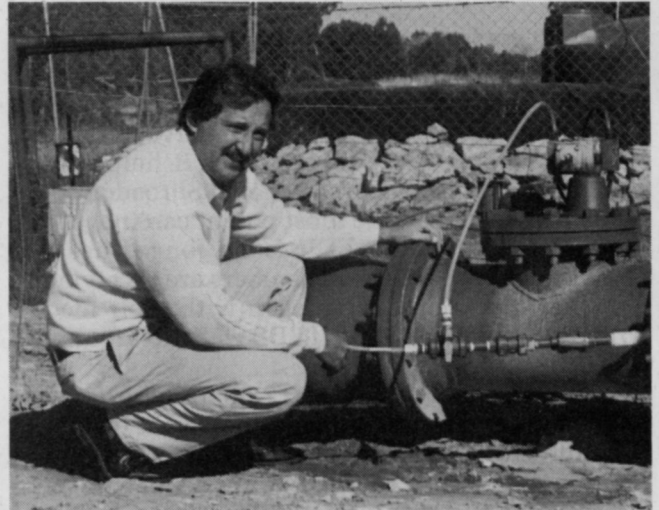
Thompson says The Cliffs' water is also high in carbonates, which is usually associated with high salt content. "As the pH

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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