

## Is sulfur listing needed for 'complete' nutrition?

**OVERLAND PARK, Kans.**—The current definition of macro-nutrients (aside from C-H-O) for turfgrass fertilization consists of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus, and represents those elements historically accepted as required for a "complete" fertilizer.

In this letter to LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, Dan Nason, marketing manager for potash products at Great Salt Lake Minerals Corp. here, thinks another should be added:

"As a turfgrass specialist for the past 15 years, I have been interested in the nutritional needs of turfgrass in order to maintain optimal health and minimize the negative impacts of a wide array of stressful situations.

"I suggest that in the specific case of turfgrass nutrition, there are four—not three—primary nutrients which are critical to the healthy completion of the normal life cycle. *Sulfur* should be the fourth

major nutrient required of turf fertilizers before they should be termed 'complete.'

"Sulfur is usually found in tissue analyses of healthy turfgrass in amounts greater than that of phosphorus. Sulfur in the plant-available sulfate form is also generally much more lacking in most soils than are the other two 'secondary nutrients,' calcium and magnesium.

"The nutritional value of sulfur in turfgrasses has been overshadowed for far too long by sulfur's use as a soil amendment to modify soil pH, yet sulfur is responsible for a great number of plant processes of particular importance to turfgrasses versus other crops. Sulfur is a major factor in turf's ability to provide for improved drought tolerance, winter hardiness, color and density; this is in addition to its important role in many metabolic functions which are commonly accepted as beneficial for other plant groups.

"Turfgrass management and so turfgrass fertilizers have evolved as an offshoot from strictly agricultural models. Maybe it's time we turfgrass managers recognize and treat turfgrasses as the unique 'crops' they are.

"The N-P-K-S designation for a 'complete' turf-type fertilizer will be of far more value to serious turf nutritionists. Consumers also should have every right to expect the 'complete' fertilizer they buy for lawn is just that: complete with the four basic nutrients most important and most often found lacking for optimum turfgrass health and nutrition."

### IN COMING MONTHS:

#### JULY

Color in the landscape  
Soil testing equipment  
Being a better boss  
Turf and iron

#### AUGUST

Recession-fighting tips  
Landscape lighting

#### SEPTEMBER

Buyer's Guide



THE WORST PART ISN'T

THAT SHE'S CALLED BACK

THREE TIMES, OR THAT

SHE PROBABLY WON'T RENEW.

THE WORST PART IS THAT

SHE'S GOT NEIGHBORS.

If she's calling you about grubs, fire ants, or mole crickets, you can bet her neighbors are hearing about you, too.

Makes you wish you'd used Triumph®, doesn't it? You could have delivered up to 90% control in just 2 to 3 days. Too bad.

Bet you'll use Triumph first, next time.

