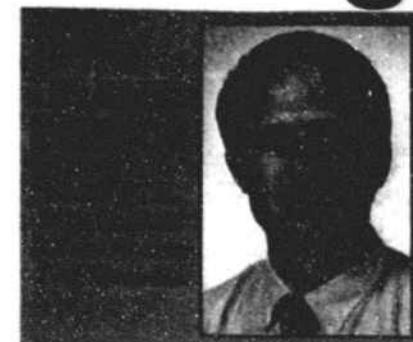


Proper Pruning Promotes Crape Myrtle Blooms

Dear Plant Doctor: Can you tell me why crape myrtles do not bloom?



ANSWER: Your letter is the first I have received from Maine.

Thank you for writing. Your water analysis indicated that you do have a serious salinity problem with your well.

Several years ago, I was part of a team that conducted a scientific study of wells in southeastern North Carolina. Monthly water samples from wells throughout southeastern North Carolina were evaluated for a variety of different mineral components. To my surprise, the composition of minerals in the well water changed slightly with each sampling and in some cases, dramatic-

and in some cases, ~~the~~

changes in salt concentrations occurred. Well water, especially from shallow wells, can change in mineral composition in a very short period of time.

I do not know what kind of cool-

season grass you cultivate in your lawn but I suspect it is Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue or creeping bentgrass. Bentgrass and tall fescue

are very tolerant of saline water conditions. If you have either one of these grasses, I feel certain you will not permanently damage your lawn with your saline well water except

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during extreme hot, droughty periods. During these periods, consider irrigating with municipal water every second or third irrigation.

Grasses are much more tolerant to saline water than most other plants.

As you have already discovered, salinity can be disastrous to many species of garden plants, shrubbery, and trees.

I am sending you some information that deals with salinity of irrigation water and how to manage it.

tion water and how to manage it. Check with the Maine Cooperative Extension Service for additional

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publications on caring for your lawn grass.

Send your gardening questions or comments to the Plant Doctor, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia NC 28422. Send a SASE if requesting a reply or information.

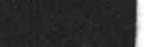


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