

Water Quality Considerations and Resources for Small Producers

I have forgotten where to send soil for testing. Can someone help me?

I would reach out to Katie with the UDAF's soil health program. I believe that they can help you with testing or at least guide you to a reputable soil testing resource.

<https://ag.utah.gov/conservation-division/soil-health-program/>

We have an acre of farm run irrigated by drip. I have an injector for the system. What acid do you suggest for cleaning the lines.

Sulphuric acid is a common one. You need to be careful because it is a strong acid. Some people use phosphoric acid, because it can provide some phosphorus, but it is also a strong acid. Here is a guide with a little information. The manufacturer, Netafim, also has some good information.

<https://extension.arizona.edu/publication/seasonal-maintenance-practices-drip-and-sprinkler-irrigation-systems-arizona>

Would it be beneficial to incorporate more vegetation to mitigate high levels of human caused nitrates? Or will that not make much difference? All water on my property comes from a well.

Vegetation would help with any type of nitrates! Doesn't matter if it's human or animal caused.

I would add that it really depends on how you are wanting to mitigate the nitrates. If you have high levels of nitrate in your well water, then the nitrates are already in the aquifer. Vegetation is going to remove nitrate to the root depth (10-20 feet) but not beyond. So if you are wanting to mitigate high nitrate from running off your land, then yes, a filter strip that you run the water through would be very beneficial. If it's in your well supply, then you are looking at a more complex situation, because that nitrogen is coming to you from upstream. If your levels are higher than 10 mg/l then you would probably need to add some degree of filtration on your drinking water.

I am wondering about recommendations for organic control for Canada Thistle in a flower and vegetable garden.

I have had success controlling other weeds in sensitive locations at a small scale using 20-30% strength vinegar. It will burn the exposed part of the plant. It's super strong so try to target the plant and prevent overspray. You'll need to do multiple treatments.

This fact sheet may help as well.

<https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/research/canada-thistle-identification-and-control>

Anyone know what kind of water volume/ ecosystems invite migratory beavers to dam?

Swaner Ecocenter does a lot with BDA and may have better insight.

<https://lowtechpbr.restoration.usu.edu/resources/recipes/Beaver/bda/>

If a university in Utah wants to apply for a hoop house for their community garden, could that be possible through this program?

Probably not. Most of the cost share programs I am aware of are designed for Agricultural producers. One of the requirements is to have a farm number, and produce at least \$1000 of an agricultural commodity. Private landowners can get their farm number at the USDA Service Center.

You could reach out to the Salt Lake Conservation District. I know that they worked closely with USU in Cache valley to do two community gardens.