

Soil-Plus Neutralizes Herbicide and Prevents Loss of Over 1,000 Trees and Shrubs Glendale (Arizona) USA

ABSTRACT

In June, Arizona State University—West Campus (a.k.a. ASU WEST) faced a severe problem with an accidental over-application of an herbicide called Simazine, which is a preemergent weed control chemical that is commonly used to minimize weed intrusion in heavy clay soils and to reduce maintenance costs.

BACKGROUND

The ASU West campus had over 4-miles of desert landscape that wrapped around the entire campus. It was the goal of the Landscape Manager and her assistant to develop an award-winning landscape as they were both highly experienced in landscape maintenance. Part of the maintenance program included a regular weed control program and the manager decided to hire a reputable firm to provide this service. The chemical, Simazine was applied to the landscape and soil surrounding the plant material to prevent germination of noxious weed seeds and thereby maintain a quality environment. However, the applicator proved to be inexperienced and more than doubled the recommended dosage of the Simazine and he also applied it close to over 1,000 newly planted trees and shrubs. This resulted in immediate toxicity to the plant material and within 3-4 weeks, approximately 80 pine trees and over 100 miscellaneous shrubs died due to toxic exposure to Simazine. Within 5-6 weeks, nearly all the plant material in the landscape showed signs of toxicity. At this point, the Landscape Manager contacted the professionals at Biofeed for a solution.

APPLICATION

After careful analysis by Biofeed® chief biochemist who determined the exact toxic factors involved, **Soil-Plus®** was recommended and applied to the entire landscape through an automatic fertilizer injection system. Soil-Plus® was applied at a rate of 2.5 gallons per acre on a continual basis for 3 months and the plant material was continually monitored.

RESULTS

During the detoxification period the following results were documented:

- No visible signs of new plant damage presented within thirty days of the first application.
- Application and new growth observed within 45 days of the first application.
- The plant material showed signs of tremendous recovery and new growth within 90 days.
- According to the Landscape Manager and her assistant, plants affected by the herbicide were in full recovery and no further loss was observed.
- The Landscape Manager continued to purchase Soil-Plus® and the landscape produced vibrant flowers and vigorous growth.