

WATER PROBLEMS

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We have repeatedly said that Fort Collins water is *good*. The picture at right says otherwise. For the past 6 to 8 years, we have had to replace our main fertilizer injector and our main mist pump almost every year — or at least spend considerable sums to get them back into shape. We have since found that our water contains rather nasty abrasives as shown by the darker filters that were removed from the main fertilizer line after one month: a rather startling comparison between those on the left and the new, white one. Thus, while Fort Collins water has very low salts, other materials are likely to erode machinery and perhaps plug trickle irrigation systems. We installed filters in the main fertilizer line last November, and these filters must be changed on the average of once monthly with the pores filled with a brown, abrasive, dust-like material. This cannot be seen in a jar of water so the concentration is very low, but still enough to eventually cause equipment failure. Growers might find it to their advantage to check water supplies not only for salinity hazard, but also for hazard to equipment.

