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Water Quality

Today on Gardening in a Minute: water quality.

Plants need water, but not all water is equally good for them. The quality of the water you irrigate your plants with can affect their success in ways that you haven't even considered.

Water from coastal wells and aquifers can often have high levels of salt, especially when water levels are low. Landscapes that use water from these sources should include mostly salt-tolerant plants.

Some homes have "hard" water. Hard water has a high mineral content, which can clog irrigation systems and leave white, filmy deposits on plants.

Other landscapes have water with a high pH, which can interfere with plants absorbing iron and other needed micronutrients. Symptoms can include leaf yellowing and deformed growth.

Contact your county Extension office to find out how to get your pH tested if you suspect problems.

For more information about this and many other gardening topics visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.

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