

RR SC Water Crisis

4/26/77

## Soft water usable for watering plants

Soft water can now be made suitable for watering plants, according to the University of California Agricultural Extension. Inferior-quality household wastewater is widely being used to keep plants alive, but chemically softened water has been an exception.

Normally, because of its high sodium, (salt) content, soft water can cause soils to become less permeable, and can cause leaves of sodium-sensitive plants to burn.

Norman C. Welch, University of California Farm Advisor,

states that homeowners can treat their softened water to restore the calcium that was present before softening removed it. The treatment is simple. By adding calcium to the water, the effect of the sodium in soft water is nullified.

Gypsum (calcium sulfate), available at most nurseries, is inexpensive and safe for this purpose. According to Roy Branson, University of California Water and Soil Specialist, gypsum is safe in its relatively low solubility, yet enough of it can be dissolved to treat softened waters effectively. One-half level teaspoon per gallon of softened water, or one tablespoon per six gallons, should be sufficient to supply the necessary calcium and change softened water to an unsoftened state. It would then be safe to use.

A convenient alternative to measuring the gypsum for each batch of water treated, would be to always keep some gypsum in the bottom of the water container. Stirring it will dissolve the necessary gypsum, and the excess can be allowed to settle for the treatment of the next batch of water.

## Water users can appeal penalties

The Santa Cruz city water department is handing out some stiff penalties to customers who use too much water this summer.

But there is an appeal procedure for residents and business men who feel the penalty is incorrect or unjustified.

The appeal is a three-step procedure. Customers should:

—Pick up a penalty billing adjustment request form from room 105 of the Santa Cruz city hall. Forms must be picked up in person, except in hardship cases.

—When the form has been completed with all required information and any supporting material, return it to the water department, room 105 of city hall.

—All completed penalty adjustment requests will be reviewed and customers notified of the determination.

**elna • WHITE**

**SEWING  
MACHINES**

Authorized Dealer  
SWISS TRAINED TECHNICIAN  
Repairs on All Makes

**427-0887**

**GLEN HARNISH  
SEWING & VACUUM CENTER**

1018 WATER STREET  
SANTA CRUZ  
(Near Seabright Ave.)