



AMARILLO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Plant Maintenance and Facility Construction

905 East Street

Amarillo TX 79107

October 16, 2012

I am the greenhouse grower at AACAL, (Amarillo Area Center for Advanced Learning).

On July 12, 2012, a $\frac{3}{4}$ " Scaletron was installed in the greenhouse. We needed a solution to the problem our water was causing with our cooling system. The cool cell filter had to be replaced every two weeks or less. The cool cell trough was so corroded it leaked forming "salt-sickles" down from the trough and up from the floor. The mist heads in the propagation tent would clog within days of cleaning and there was a "salt glaze" on the cuttings.

A few days after installation, I noticed how clear the water was. When the water hit the soil it was as if a surfactant was added. After a few more days the water pressure had increased. I used a few cool cell filters quickly as there were half inch chunks of scale coming from the water line and cool cell. I cleaned the propagation tent mist heads after installation. I have not had to clean them again. It appears cool cell filters will last a few months as opposed to two weeks. The water has dissolved the salt on the floor and hanging from the cool cell trough.

I was surprised how quickly the plants began to be affected by the water. The color and growth is so much better. The plants do not require as much water. I am using half the fertilizer I was before. A buildup on the soil, pots or drainage holes is gone.

Sheila Brumley
Amarillo Independent School District