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Water Quality Considerations for the Agricultural and Urban Use of Reclaimed Water in the Southwest

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WATER QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE AGRICULTURAL AND URBAN USE OF RECLAIMED WATER IN THE SOUTHWEST

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This is a panel session of four speakers. The papers to be presented are: microbial pathogens in reclaimed water and their persistence and fate in the environment (Di Giovanni); appraising the salinity hazard to landscape plants and soil from the use of reclaimed water (Miyamoto); selection of urban landscape plants for irrigation with reclaimed water (Niu), and; salinity effects and salt movement from surface applied gray water (Sheng). A co-authored proceedings paper will be prepared.

Reclaimed water use has the potential to help communities, especially in the arid southwest, meet growing water demands under dwindling fresh water supplies. Reclaimed water represents a reliable supply of water for small-scale production agriculture, urban landscape use, industrial use and groundwater recharge. However, the chemical and microbiological quality of reclaimed water needs to be considered. This panel session will describe field and laboratory experiences with reclaimed water and identification of some of the chemical and microbiological issues that need to be addressed for successful and safe application. Four papers will be presented covering: microbial pathogens in reclaimed water and their persistence and fate in the environment (Di Giovanni); appraising the salinity hazard to landscape plants and soil from the use of reclaimed water (Miyamoto); selection of urban landscape plants for irrigation with reclaimed water (Niu), and; salinity effects and salt movement from surface applied gray water (Sheng).

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