

Where to Find Product Information

by Michael G. Villani
Cornell University

Not all products perform equal when it comes to controlling insects in turfgrass and landscape ornamentals. The listing of a specific pest on the product label indicates that this product can be legally applied to control that pest but does not guarantee that this product will perform as well as other labeled products. For example, Sevin®, Turcam®, Oftanol®, Merit®, Dylox®, Diazinon®, and Dursban® are all labeled for Japanese beetle grub control in New York State, but the field activity of these products can vary. Since not all insecticides are created equal, there is a critical need for turfgrass managers to have access to unbiased, comparative information on the suitability of specific products for their management needs. Where can you begin a search for insecticide information?

Chemical company representatives are often extremely knowledgeable about their company's line of products.

County or regional extension personnel have first hand information on the performance of specific products against insects in their geographic region. These agents often have close ties with university-based research entomologists who are field testing these products for chemical companies. They can often provide up-to-date research reports of the performance of these products based upon the university field tests in the state or in the geographic region.

If you have difficulty finding sufficient in depth information for choosing an insecticide from your county agent, you might contact the Land Grant University in your state directly and request that they connect you with the person responsible for turfgrass and landscape insect

problems. Finding the correct turfgrass expert in your state may take a little patience but is often well worth the effort. These experts can often provide detailed research reports containing technical, unbiased comparisons of insecticides they tested over the past year. If they are unfamiliar with a particular pest or product, they can often point you to an entomologist elsewhere in the region with particular knowledge of your specific management problem.

The most up-to-date listing of addresses and phone numbers of university turfgrass entomologists can be found in the Handbook of Turfgrass Insect Pests, which was published by the Entomological Society of America in 1995 (an updated contact list will be included in *TurfGrass Trends* as part of this series).

Turfgrass managers interested in obtaining a comprehensive technical review of university field testing of turfgrass and landscape insecticides should consider subscribing to Arthropod Management Tests. Published annually by the Entomological Society of America, this 400+ page report provides the best compilation of unbiased technical comparisons of labeled and experimental insecticides available. The results of literally hundreds of field experiments conducted throughout the country the previous year are included. The current cost for Arthropod Management Tests is \$40 for persons who are not members of the Entomological Society. Current and back issues of this publication are available through the Society [contact: Sales Office, Entomological Society of America, 9301 Annapolis Rd., Lanham, MD 20706; Tel: (301)-731-4535; FAX: (301)-731-4538].

Dr. Michael G. Villani is an Associate Professor of Soil Insect Ecology in the Department of Entomology at NYSAES/Cornell University. He is active in both research and extension work, concentrates on the inter-relationships between soil insects, their host plants, and the soil environment.