

## Waste Oil: So Now What do you Do?

by Leon Snethen

Last month I told you that waste oil is hazardous waste, thereby regulated by state code. This means you can't just dump it down your drain when you change the oil in a piece of equipment. There are steps you need to take to dispose of this waste.

First, you need to obtain an E.P.A. number so you can dispose of the oil. It takes a very simple phone call to (415) 495-8895. A number will be

assigned to you and is valid after a 90-day waiting period.

Second, you need to monitor your storage facility (It must have secondary containment) on a weekly basis. The form is simple and I would be happy to send you a copy. It must include the date of the inspection, the inspector's name, leak check, labeling, clean tops, incompatibles segregated, proper aisle space to inspect containers, disposal time verification, proper sealing of

drums, and verification of secondary containment.

Third, call your waste oil pick up person and find out what is compatible for waste. If you mix the wrong types of oils, it will cost you more to dispose of it.

Last, make sure you have a contingency plan in place -- What to do if you have a spill, fire, earthquake, or any disaster that results in the release of a hazardous waste. This plan should include who to contact

(management, emergency coordinators, agencies, etc.) in case of an emergency, detailed descriptions of action to be taken by your personnel, and evacuation procedures. Then document your employee training in this plan.

If you have information to add to this, please write an article and submit it to the chapter office. If you have any questions, call me at (408) 253-0340.

## Ammonium Sulfate Fertilizer Fights Summer Patch

A new study shows that ammonium sulfate fertilizer (21-0-0-24S) suppresses summer patch, a fungal disease attacking the roots of grasses, according to Dr. Joseph Heckman of Rutgers University.

Heckman said the intensity of this turf disease increases during hot, humid summers. Summer patch affects Kentucky bluegrass, annual bluegrass and fine fescues.

Heckman has been working with Rutgers plant pathologists David Thompson and Bruce Clarke. Thompson said it appears ammonium sulfate's effects on summer patch are linked to the lower soil pH achieved when using this fertilizer.

"Ammonium sulfate reduces soil pH almost immediately and that has been shown to

suppress summer patch in our test on Kentucky bluegrass," Thompson said. "Urea lowers the pH in the long term, but in the short term it actually increases the soil pH and urea does not suppress summer patch."

Neither calcium nitrate nor potassium nitrate offer the pH lowering effect found with ammonium sulfate, according to Thompson.

Tests in 1991 showed a 60-to-80 percent reduction in summer patch when ammonium sulfate was applied and a 35-to-45 percent reduction when sulfur-coated urea was applied compared to urea or nitrate.

Thompson also said ammonium sulfate caused a delay of three to five weeks in the development of symptoms while sulfur-coated urea only

showed a one to two week delay of symptoms compared to nitrate nitrogen.

Kentucky bluegrass is grown in pH levels between 6 and 7, but Thompson's research shows that this grass also grows well at pH levels in the mid-fives. It is in the fives that Thompson said summer patch is best suppressed. That's also the preferred pH level for bentgrass.

Thompson said it is often hard to foresee if the weather will be conducive to summer patch problems, and fungicides must be applied as preventative treatments at high rates due to the soil-borne nature of the disease.

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See related article on page 3 - *Summer Salt Accumulation*

### Exercise is the Key to Back Rehab

92% of all patients with low back pain will recover on their own in two months, states Gary Jacob, a Santa Monica chiropractor. For the other 8%, "active" therapy and exercise are more beneficial than "passive" therapy such as ultrasound or manipulation. In a recent talk, he stated that traditional therapies have little real value. Active movement is the key to true recovery, and the exercise program should begin immediately after the injury.

While heat packs or ultrasound may make the patient feel better temporarily, they do not address the underlying injury. However, since Worker's Compensation is paying the bill, they continue to be used month after month after month.