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Q: What material can be used as a mosquito repellent on humans?
A: Commercial preparations containing diethyl-m-toluamide, diethyl phthalate, or diethyl carbate are the most effective. Outer garments can be treated with a preparation of one ounce benzyl benzoate (from drug store) to three pints water. Saturate all parts of the clothing, wring lightly, and dry thoroughly before wearing.

Q: What is the best way my men can tell nimblewill from bentgrass in clients' lawns?
A: Both nimblewill and the bentgrasses have a membraneous ligule. However, the ligule for nimblewill is short and jagged. Also, nimblewill has long hairs at the edges of the collar.

Q: I have noticed that Bordeaux is gradually being replaced by other fungicides in most disease recommendations. What does Bordeaux contain and is it losing its effectiveness?
A: Bordeaux mixture is a mixture of copper sulfate and hydrated lime in water. The ratio is one pound copper sulfate, three pounds spray lime, 50 gallons water.

Bordeaux is available as a dry wettable powder and is more effective against many diseases but is being replaced with safer materials because of problems with plant injury and compatibility with other pesticides.

Q: What pre-emergent chemical can I use to control weeds in a bed that contains English ivy, pachysandra and myrtle?
A: The three ground covers you listed are tolerant to Betasan, Eptam and Ronstar.

Betasan is effective on annual grasses, especially crabgrass. Eptam will suppress nutsedge, quackgrass and certain broadleaf weeds, although it will not give as long-lasting control as many other herbicides. Ronstar will control many annual grasses and broadleaf weeds.

Read the labels for more specific information, including application instructions.

Send your question or comments to: Vegetation Management c/o WEEDS TREES & TURF, 9800 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102. Leave at least two months for Roger Funk's response in this column.