

Tricks for techs

Brickman's Joe Ketterer shares five pointers for lawn care applicators to increase efficiency with landscape bed weed control.

By MARISA PALMIERI

When it comes to effective and efficient application techniques for landscape bed weed control, Joe Ketterer has a few shortcuts up his PPE-approved, long-sleeved shirt.

Ketterer, a certified pesticide applicator with a bachelor's degree in ornamental horticulture from Pennsylvania State University, is a 30-year veteran of the Brickman Group. He serves today as a regional production specialist for the Rockville, Md.-based national landscape company, providing in-house training and research/development capabilities in the areas of labor, materials and equipment.

Ketterer presented, "Best Practices of Weed Management in Landscape Beds," during an April webinar hosted by *Landscape Management* and sponsored by Nufarm.

He covered many of the basics, such as the importance of reading pesticide product labels, but he dove deeper to encourage attendees to think differently about product selection and application techniques.

"There are some (chemical) products small companies see and say, 'That's too expensive—I can't afford it,'" he says about product choice. "But if you take the time to apply the products properly and it drastically reduces the amount of hand weeding you have to do, you can afford it."

Regarding techniques, Ketterer offers five tricks to make landscape bed weed control applications easier.

1 Think custom. ACME Spred-Rite granular spreading tools are a staple in Ketterer's operation for precision granular material application in beds (typically preemergent herbicides). The standard tool comes with a green plastic paddle and a clear plastic tube. Ketterer has aluminum paddles custom made to "bulletproof" them for commercial use and extend their life spans.



2 Consider premixed products. Many lawn care operators (LCOs) overlook consumer-oriented, store-bought pesticides, but not Ketterer. He likes to keep a few jugs of this type of specialty product at the ready for specific situations, such as treating an unexpected poison ivy patch. Keeping in-house prepared products on hand is an alternative; however, it's important to remember bottle labeling requirements and to keep the product labels and MSDS on the truck.

3 Fabricate solutions. When working in beds, it's vital to protect nontarget plants adjacent to spray areas. Ketterer does so by modifying the top of a 32-ounce sport drink bottle and affixing it to the end of a spray wand to create a drift guard.

He starts by cutting the bottle along the top ridge and drilling a hole through the bottle cap (slightly smaller than the spray tip threads). Next, he removes the spray tip from the wand, screws the bottle cap onto the wand and replaces the spray nozzle. Finally, he screws the trimmed bottle into the bottle cap. At that point, if the plastic interferes with the spray pattern, he'll remove more of the plastic. "You can buy a drift protector for \$7 or \$8 apiece or make one with a recycled sport drink bottle in under two minutes," he says.

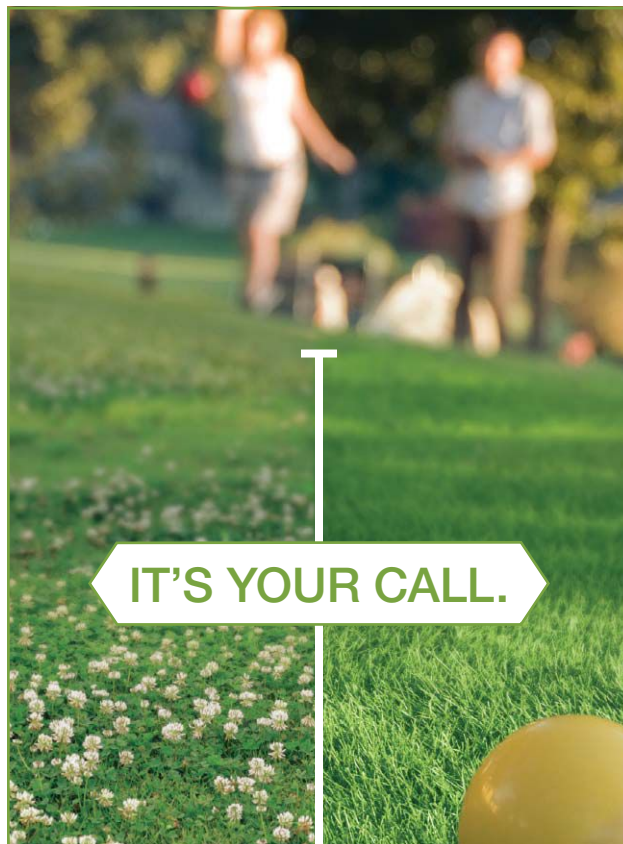
» WEB EXTRA

To view a recorded version of the bed weed control webinar, presented by Brickman's Joe Ketterer and Virginia Tech's Jeff Derr, Ph.d., visit LandscapeManagement.net/webinars.

The Ticker: **LAWN CARE**

The **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and **Army Corps of Engineers** proposed a rule under the Clean Water Act that would regulate fertilizer and pesticide use on properties near any water, including man-made water bodies, ditches and flood plains. Aaron Hobbs, president of **Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE)**, opined on the new rule, noting professionals would need to obtain permits to treat such properties and that could cause additional difficulties. The rule is open for public comment until July 21 and viewable at buff.ly/1fx80Zv.

Bayer CropScience opened the doors to its North American Bee Care Center in Research Triangle Park, N.C. The \$2.4 million facility will act as an educational resource and research hub for stewardship and best management practices pertaining to honeybees. While research has been focused on agriculture so far, projects are in the works related to urban settings, primarily the impact of pesticides and like products on bee populations.



IT'S YOUR CALL.

MID-SUMMER WEED CONTROL THAT GIVES YOU SUMMER HOURS.

Last Call™ herbicide delivers post-emerge control of more than 200 grassy and broadleaf weeds – including mid-tiller crabgrass – when most other herbicides check out. And since Last Call is labeled for all managed areas in cool-season turf, there is no reason to feel the heat this summer. Plan your summer, it's your call.

SEE YOUR DISTRIBUTOR OR NUFARM.COM/USTO FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LAST CALL.

Last Call™

MORE WHERE IT MATTERS MOST.
www.nufarm.com/us

©2014 Nufarm. Important: Always read and follow label instructions. Last Call™ is a trademark of Nufarm.





4 Wick on. Don't forget about specialty equipment for targeting specific weeds in sensitive situations, Ketterer says. A wick applicator, for example, looks like a hockey stick

with a paint roller on the end. "You can wipe glyphosate onto the weeds to selectively take them out," he says. "It's a pretty cool little tool that comes in handy."

5 Top it off. Filling Spred-Rites with granular herbicides directly from product bags can be tricky, causing spillage and waste. Ketterer recommends using a 5-gallon paint bucket with a lid and pour spout to keep the product dry and make the task easier. **LM**

SAFETY FIRST

It goes without saying that lawn care professionals always should follow personal protective equipment requirements listed on pesticide labels, says Joe Ketterer, regional production specialist with the Brickman Group. Still, everyone needs a reminder, he says. Here's his must-have safety gear checklist.

Don't forget

- ✓ Safety vest
- ✓ Safety glasses
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Boots
- ✓ Eye wash bottle (solution and cups)
- ✓ Spill cleanup kit

Wear when applicable

- ✓ Long-sleeved shirt
- ✓ Ear protection
- ✓ Chemical gloves
- ✓ Dust mask

The Goods: LAWN CARE

FMC TRIPLE CROWN T&O INSECTICIDE

Triple Crown is a three-way combination of bifenthrin, zeta-cypermethrin and imidacloprid, offering multiple modes of action on pests, including ants, fire ants, grubs (masked chafer, European chafer and Japanese beetle), chinch bugs, annual bluegrass weevils, ticks, mites, billbugs, mole crickets and more.

APPLY AWAY

The product is labeled for broadcast lawn treatments, mound treatments and landscape applications.



TOUGH ACTING

Available in an EW formulation, Triple Crown works through contact, translaminar and systemic activity.

WIDE RANGE

It's registered for use on lawn and landscaped areas around residential, institutional, public, commercial and industrial buildings, parks, recreational areas and athletic fields.