As a turf professional, you know how yellow nutsedge can compete with desirable grasses for water and nutrients. This tough weed reduces the attractiveness of residential turf, golf course fairways and tees. It can lower the value of sod crops as well. And you don’t want to risk using a herbicide that might damage your turf. But you don’t have to live with these problems.

This year get the solution. Basagran® herbicide. Applied according to label directions, Basagran is the only post-emergence herbicide that effectively controls yellow nutsedge, without turf injury.

So, for the proven combination of toughness on yellow nutsedge and gentleness on your turf, use Basagran herbicide. And get the edge on yellow nutsedge.

BASF Wyandotte Corporation, Agricultural Chemicals Division, 100 Cherry Hill Road, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054.

Follow label instructions.

Circle No. 106 on Reader Inquiry Card
do you in? Are you free from an implied or explicit liability in directing volunteer labor? Has the sponsor given you an ironclad "hold harmless" contract that will hold up in court? Can the sponsor give you such a contract, without unlawfully waiving the inalienable rights to judgment of any injured people? Will you be able to keep the crowd at a safe distance from your equipment?

Quantifying All Costs is Difficult

In estimating and costing, a computer can be invaluable. Ideally, each step of a job should be
costed out from the standpoint of labor, equipment, live and inert materials, and proportion of
general overhead that can be assigned to it. The
cost of labor includes recruitment, fringe
benefits, and overhead required to manage it.

The cost of equipment includes purchase price
with all freight charges and taxes, or rental
charge, and depreciation if the equipment is
owned, fuel, and maintenance expense (parts
and labor or outside service).

Equipment has a functional life and an eco-
nomic life. The functional life of course refers
to the length of time it can perform work. The eco-
nomic life refers to the length of time it makes a
positive contribution to profit. We would modify
the definition of economic life a bit to accommo-
date technological obsolescence. Incorporation
of a new feature or accessory can multiply
profitability to the point where existing equip-
ment, while still making a contribution to profit,
cannot be considered adequate. Economic life,
then, is the length of time equipment makes the
greatest possible contribution to profit.

Your computer should be programmed to eval-
uate both people and machines as individual
contributors to profit. You need not act on the
evaluations, but you should have them at your
fingertips. They can be computed quite easily by
subtracting all associated costs from gross in-
come generated, but you have to log correctly all
costs. Unless you're an accountant, this kind of
close and careful record-keeping may be a big fat
headache. One of the great difficulties of
installing a computer is that it imposes detailed ac-
countability, which free spirits sometimes find
hard to swallow.

Pinpointing Profit Contribution of Equipment

As far as equipment is concerned, you first
tally its cost by adding purchase price, delivery
charges, taxes, finance cost, insurance, and li-
censes (or, alternatively, rental/leasing cost).
Then you attempt to estimate economic life (not
functional life), disposal value (if any), and re-
placement cost, remembering to factor in
inflation, which can be as high as 20%-25% on
machinery. The procedure is something like this:
Equipment Cost plus Estimated Service Cost less
Disposal Value plus Replacement Cost; divide
result by Economic Life in years to get rough
Running Cost; add cost of Operator, Fuel, and
Transportation to Job Sites to smoothe Running
Cost. Set up an Equipment Utilization report on
your computer to relate Sales Volume generated
by the individual machine to its Running Cost and
to your Overall Volume and Profit. Detail
number of hours used and number of hours
available. Both statistics are important: If a ma-
chine is down most of the time but generates a
large volume when it does work, it may be
profitable, common sense to the contrary. All this
information can very probably be placed on an
Individual Machine Record and extracted for
the Equipment Utilization report. But don't at-
tempt such record-keeping without a computer.
Here's a trencher that fills the gap between handlebar machines and larger riding units — with advantages over both other models.

This little 18-HP-class trencher provides adequate power for most jobs, as well as easier access to job areas. With it, you get into tight places where many similar horsepower machines can't go.

You can backfill with the 1810.* Its 4-wheel hydrostatic drive makes it a breeze to operate. And it is easy to service and maintain.

The 1810 is popular with many kinds of users. In terms of cost, and the job it'll do, it offers labor and time-saving returns of many larger, higher-priced machines, plus greater economy.

The between machine 1810. One more choice from Ditch Witch.

*Backfill blade is optional.
Q: Is it possible for a girdled tree to live and continue growing? A client has a large walnut tree that was girdled by vandals last year, and although we expected it to die, the tree has begun leafing out normally this spring. Is there anything we can do to help save the tree? (California)

A: If a strip of bark is removed completely around the trunk, the tree will die.

Sugars produced in the leaves are translocated downward to the roots in the inner bark (phloem). The root cells add mineral elements absorbed from the soil solution to these sugars to produce other compounds required for growth and development. When the supply of sugar is interrupted by girdling, the available sugar and stored carbohydrates are gradually depleted and the roots die.

The tree may die the same year it is girdled, but there are many reported cases of girdled trees continuing to grow for two years and then failing to leaf out the third year.

You could try grafting to bridge the girdled section of the trunk, or a technique called INARCHING, where established seedlings or suckers near the base of the trunk are decapitated and the sharpened tip inserted under the bark above the girdled area. Both practices should be done when the buds begin to swell in the spring. If you are unfamiliar with the techniques, contact a local plant propagator, or contact me at our headquarters in Kent, Ohio.

Q: When is the best time to transplant dogwoods? (Tennessee)

A: I have been told that some nurserymen prefer to transplant dogwood during the bloom period, but I have not seen any research to substantiate this practice. According to the literature, the best time is while the trees are dormant, preferably from February through March in your area.

There is a greater chance for survival if dogwoods are root pruned one year before transplanting.

Q: How can rabbits be kept out of a garden? I have tried everything, including fences which they simply dig under. (Pennsylvania)

A: Put up 36” width chicken wire and bend the bottom and top 6” outward. These “fenders” will prevent rabbits from digging under or hopping over the fence. I am told it also works for raccoons.

Q: What herbicide can I use to get rid of pigweed in beds of alyssum and dianthus? Everything I have tried injured the bedding plants. (Pennsylvania)

A: The pre-emergent herbicide, Treflan (Trifluralin), will control pigweed and is safe on the two perennials you mentioned. It should be incorporated into the soil about two to three inches.

Q: Recently I attended a symposium on the Mauget Tree Injection System. Is this a widely accepted mode of tree fertilization and pesticide application in the landscape industry? How effective, convenient and expensive (other than the initial cost of the kit) is it on a long-range basis? (Pennsylvania)

A: Several tree care companies are using Mauget capsules, but our research department has not been sufficiently satisfied with the results to recommend the Mauget method to our field personnel.

We have tested various injection systems to determine the apparent injury to the trunk and the rate of uptake, distribution and effectiveness of the chemicals injected. Although response varied with the species, age and condition of the trees as well as the environmental conditions and nature of the chemical, the results summarized below were fairly consistent throughout the tests.

1) When no chemical was added, Mauget injectors resulted in minimal wood and cambial dieback compared to larger injectors.

2) Many injected chemicals caused columns of discolored wood and cambial dieback regardless of the injection technique.

3) The rate of chemical uptake through injectors seated in drilled holes was at least 10 times faster than through a Mauget insertion tube of the same diameter.

4) Distribution and uptake was greatly enhanced by an injection pressure of 40 psi compared to a gravity system or the low pressure in the Mauget method.

5) Trunk injections have not been effective for trunk or stem-infesting insects such as borers and scale.

We are continuing our research to evaluate trunk injections for diseases and leaf-feeding insects. At the present time our policy is to trunk-inject only if other corrective procedures such as spraying or soil fertilization is either not effective nor practical under existing conditions.

Q: Is it OK to hydroseed crownvetch? (Maryland)

A: Hydroseeding has become a common method of establishing crownvetch on slopes. The normal procedure is to apply limestone, fertilizer, seed (crownvetch and companion grass), inoculant and cellulose pulp followed immediately by an application of mulch.

Q: Could you tell me where the American Rose Society is headquartered? (Maryland)

A: American Rose Society, P. O. Box 30,000, Shreveport, Louisiana 71130.

The following question, which appeared in this column last October, has caused some confusion because of our error in labeling the two types of bentgrass. Here is the corrected version.

Q: What is the best way my men can tell nimblewill from bentgrass in clients’ lawns? (Pennsylvania)

A: Both nimblewill and the bentgrasses have a membranous ligule. However, the ligule for nimblewill is short and jagged. Also, nimblewill has long hairs at the edges of the collar.

Send your questions or comments to: Vegetation Management c/o WEEDS TREES & TURF, 757 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Leave at least two months for Roger Funk’s response in this column.
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Chocolate Town readies itself for sod producers

The recently built Hershey Motor Lodge & Convention Center will host members of the American Sod Producers Association for their summer convention and field days, July 15-17.

The location, near many sod growers, farmers, and family entertainment spots, should attract a large number of members and exhibitors, says ASPA’s Executive Director Bob Garey. Gettysburg and other historic sites are short drives from Hershey.

Rich Morrison, general chairman and member of the Pennsylvania Sod Producers Association, is planning a comprehensive convention schedule. Exhibits open on Wednesday (the 15th) afternoon at the convention center. There will also be a golf tournament and tennis and recreation time the first day.

The exhibits reopen at 7 a.m. Thursday and a continental breakfast will be served in conjunction with them. The annual business session begins at 10 with an address from Penny Hallwell, secretary of agriculture for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A review of ASPA activities and election of officers follows.

After lunch, attendees will travel to Davis Nurseries, run by Paul Davis, for two types of demonstrations: sludge injection and utilization and irrigation equipment. An embryo transfer facility, which uses new technology for breeding cattle, exists at the nursery and is available for a possible tour. Buses will take those who skip the facility immediately to Landis Valley Farm Museum, which features historical agricultural and farm implements.

At night, a Pennsylvania Dutch celebration will occur with a reception and dinner in front of the lake by the lodge.

Friday begins with a buffet breakfast. Buses will then take attendees to the Sporting Valley Turf operation of Bob Hummer. The field demonstrations will be held there.

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The book contains 150 illustrations and 96 color photographs. Data includes 240 tables and forms. Included are specifications for rootzones, employment, calculations for chemical applications, and extensive metric-imperial conversion. Business and technical aspects of turfgrass management are covered in this 424-page book. Planning, purchasing, hiring, construction, and plant selection are put together for easy on-the-job reference.

Markets covered include lawn care, sod production, golf course management, cemeteries, athletic fields, and low maintenance areas. If it concerns turf, it's in the Turf Managers' Handbook.

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