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The WS-490 Greens Wheelie delivers chemical applications which are relatively unchanged by the speed at which the sprayer is pushed. The faster it is pushed, the faster it pumps. When the operator stops, the sprayer stops pumping. (Other models and sizes available.)  
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SEPTMBER 1985/WEEDS TREES & TURF 145
Quackgrass headaches

Problem: I think we have a quackgrass problem in our lawn. Would you please describe how it can be identified and also how it can be controlled? I would appreciate your comments. (Pennsylvania)

Solution: Quackgrass (Agropyron repens) is a perennial weed which spreads by lateral, underground, whitish stems called rhizomes with many nodes (joints) and pointed tips. These tips can turn upward and become fast-growing leafy shoots. The plant produces roots from the nodes. Every leaf has a membranous "ligule" at the base of the leaf where it joins the sheath, and a pair of small, hook-like "auricles" which clasp around the stem.

There is no herbicide registered for selectively removing quackgrass from established lawns. Non-selective herbicides like Roundup can be used but they will kill the desirable grass also. A quackgrass problem can be minimized by following good cultural practices.

Reports indicate quackgrass is not able to compete with a well-maintained turf with good density. Repeated mowing, especially if the mower is not set low, can create stress on quackgrass. Maintain a good turfgrass management program, such as mowing and fertilization, to improve the density and health of desirable turfgrass. Well-maintained turfgrass may crowd out and reduce quackgrass over a period of several years. Remember that reinfestation of quackgrass can occur through seeds or rhizomes from nearby areas or from topdressing materials.

Moles a gridiron problem

Problem: How do you get rid of ground moles in a football field? (Michigan)

Are there any new products to eradicate moles other than using Oftanol for grubs? (Indiana)

Solution: Moles damage lawns and gardens through their tunneling activities in search of insect larvae and earthworms. They dig a network of deep tunnels (10-18 feet deep) for permanent use and a network of surface burrows with characteristic ridges of soil above them for temporary use.

These tunnels cause grass roots to die and present a problem while mowing. Moles are active tunnelers and can tunnel at a rate of 12-15 feet per hour. Sometimes surface tunnels can be formed at a rate of one foot per minute. Surface tunnels are used once for feeding and then abandoned.

Moles are difficult to control because they live mostly within their deeper tunnels. Common control measures include: trapping, elimination of food supply by use of insecticides, use of poisonous baits, or fumigation. Trapping and the elimination of insects are the most effective control measures.

Traps (harpoon or choker seem to work best) should be set near tunnels that are in current use. To detect inhabited tunnels, roll or tramp down the ridge of soil. If the tunnels are raised the next day, set the trap in that place and repeat this for several days. Deeper tunnels can be located by pushing a pointed rod or stick into the ground.

If grubs are the major source of food they should be controlled with insecticides. Poisoned baits are usually not effective because moles, being carnivorous, generally ignore them. Gas treatments don't solve the problem because gases diffuse out of the tunnels.

However, reports indicate that a fumigant tablet called Phostoxin can effectively eliminate moles.

First, inspect the property and detect all active burrows showing signs of freshly excavated soil. Abandoned burrows often end abruptly and collapse. For effective control, large portions of active burrows should be treated. Carefully make holes in the top of the burrows and place two Phostoxin tablets every five to ten feet in the active burrows. Moist but not wet conditions are preferred for treatment. Seal the hole with wadded paper and soil. Wait for three days and then tramp or roll the untreated area. Repeat treatment may be necessary if new burrows develop. Read the label and follow the directions.

Another report suggests that Juicy Fruit gum (Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company) also can manage the mole problem. Wear gloves to avoid getting human scent on the gum, make holes in the active burrows, unwrap a fresh pack of gum, roll each piece like a carpet, place them in the burrows, and seal the openings with sod. Moles cannot digest chewing gum and die a day or so after eating it.

Unsightly raised areas should be leveled with light rolling using a tank roller without the water. Make sure the area is moist but not wet to avoid compaction. This should help minimize problems during mowing.
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Nutrient pellets feed container stock

Controlled release plant nutrition in the form of egg-shaped pellets might be a valuable tool for nurserymen in keeping container stock healthy and vigorous for long periods of time. One company, Estech, Inc., will soon introduce a 6-gram "briquette" to complement its established 16-gram Woodace pellet.

Research conducted at the Burden Research Center, near Baton Rouge, LA, by Director Dr. Warren Meadows and Don Fuller, a research associate, suggests smaller packaged briquette formulations could have advantages nurserymen might want to consider. But are they effective?

Yes, say the researchers. Nurserymen who use fertilizer briquettes correctly can maintain the vigor of stock long after it is moved into wholesale channels and even several months beyond.

The root system of the containerized plant surrounds the briquettes, and the matrix—the coating which surrounds the actual plant food—maintains a desirable rate of release for use by the plant.

The Woodace briquettes contain IBDU as the source of nitrogen. IBDU is known for slow release by soil hydrolysis; the product does not require soil bacterial action to release.

High temperatures do not appreciably increase the rate of nitrogen release and cold weather slows release only slightly and where needed. Plants have the opportunity to harden off.

The researchers note the smaller-sized pellets provide more surface area (in relation to their size) and a higher release pattern.

And they are handy. Application using a dibble is made only once during the growing season.

Errors are minimized because workers are given a number of briquettes to add to each container—as opposed to having to measure a specific amount. Also, no topdressing is needed as is common, usually on a monthly basis. Also, briquettes are not subject to leaching. Container plants normally get ½ inch of water daily and a quick release nitrogen will readily leach, with loss to the owner.

Although the studies concentrated on the use of briquette plant nutrition for container stock in 1 and 3-gallon containers, preliminary trials indicate excellent potential for the 5, 10, 20, 30, and 50 gallon containers also. The research center recently began formal studies on these larger sizes. Greater periods of control release plant feed-

New 6-gram briquettes.

ing may be possible.

“I think their (briquettes) potential is going to be in the larger containers because of the long release factor,” says research associate Fuller. “There might be some potential in using the briquettes on outside landscape material also.”

But Fuller feels acceptance of the briquettes will ultimately be determined by commercial cost effectiveness.

Researchers feel they can take most any fertilizer material on the market today and adapt it to use on woody ornamentals. But each material has a prescribed use determining both amount and frequency of application. A grower finds what best fits his own operation.

Nurserymen may be using more of the controlled release, briquette form of nutrition to provide healthy and attractive stock months beyond the nursery itself, a better situation for grower and dealer. Fuller says it’s not uncommon for retailers to get plants and not know how to handle them until they show symptoms of being nutritionally starved.

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Buckner brass valve contamination resistant
The Series 20930 brass valve from Buckner Irrigation is available from 3/4-inch through two-inch NPT size. The contamination-resistant valve features a unique three-way operating solenoid, eliminating the need for continuous flow through the upper diaphragm chamber, reducing the opportunity to clog.

The Series 20930 can be used in low-flow drip irrigation and other large turf applications where dependability is a necessity. Circle 190 on Reader Inquiry Card

Salsco introduces new greens/tees aerifier
Salsco, manufacturer of core aerators for the lawn care industry and seeding-fertilizing units, now makes the Model 30-12 greens & tees aerifier.

Sealed roller bearings and oil impregnated bushings are standard on this unit which turns in a 40-inch radius and can be disassembled in 45 minutes. Salsco says the Model 30-12 covers over 13,000 square feet per hour, has a minimum penetration depth of 2-3/4 inches and a hole pattern of 2-1/4 x 2-3/4 inches. Circle No. 191 on Reader Inquiry Card

Simplicity offers new cart/grass collector
The new Cart Collector by Simplicity features a 10-bushel capacity. It's a steel, dual-purpose cart, adaptable for simple hauling chores, and also a 10-bushel capacity grass collector. Simplicity says the Cart Collector

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