CONTROL OF COMMON AND MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED

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Both of these species of chickweed are of common occurrence and are both resistant to the amine and sodium salt formations of 2, 4-D which are ordinarily used for turf weed control. Many trade-name preparations of these compounds indicate that chickweed is controlled by the compound; experience has shown that often this is not the case.

In an effort to determine suitable control measures for chickweeds the following chemicals have been tried at rates known to be effective on many other weeds:

2, 4, 5-T in water
2, 4-D, ester in water
2, 4-D ester in non-toxic oil
Stoddard solvent, undiluted
Dinitrophenal, selective grade, in water (DN)
Sodium pentachlorophenate, in water (PCP)
Sodium trichloroacetate, in water (TCA)
Endoxohexarydrophthallate, in water
Lead arsenate, dry powder
Isopropyl Phenyl carbamate, dry powder (IPC)
Maleic hydrazide, in water

Water sprays of 2, 4-D, 2, 4, 5-T, maleic hydrazide and TCA were ineffective on both weed species.

Endoxohexahydrophthallate caused defoliation of common chickweed but had no effect on the mousear type.

The oil solution of 2, 4-D ester, at 2 pounds per acre and 15 pounds of IPC each gave a satisfactory kill of chickweed when applications were made in the fall. At that time new seedlings were appearing and these were sensitive to the action of the two chemicals.

Stoddard solvent, at the rate of 1 gallon per 1000 square feet killed chickweeds in early spring and late fall treatments. Perennial grasses were killed to the ground line, however. Recovery of grasses occurred in 5-10 days following the treatment.

Dinitrophenol, at the rate of ¾ ounce per 1000 square feet, and pentochlorophenol at the rate of 6½ ounces per 1000 square feet were equally effective in killing chickweed. The mouse-ear form seemd to be a little more difficult to kill, but when a wetting agent was added to the solution both species were killed. Both forms of phenolic herbicides caused some injury to turf grasses, either a yellowing of leaf tips or the formation of small white spots on the leaves. These injuries were of temporary nature, however, and recovery was rapid. Applications of arsenate of lead at 5 ounces per 1000 square feet and endoxohexahydrophthallate at the rate of ½ ounce had no effect on chickweed. The latter compound caused considerable injury to lawn grasses.

POSSIBLE CLOVER CONTROL

A new chemical Endothal (3,6 Endoxo hexahydraphthalate) has been tried at Purdue on clover with excellent results. Rates of 1 pound per acre applied June 8 gave 98% leaf control and killed the runners back to the crown within 4 days. Bluegrass was only slightly burned at the 1 pound rate. Further information as to source, rates and application will be published in August or September in time for you to try it this fall.

GUEST DAY AT CHESTERFIELD C. C.

Members of the Association and their guests assembled at Chesterfield on Monday, June 18 for an afternoon and evening of golf and relaxation. Our host Julius Buchen and his assistant, son Dick Buchen entertained us royally. The course was in excellent condition. The fescue fairways were very fast and the boys were getting unusually long distance on their drives. Julius has been replacing his old greens turf with C-15 raised by himself. The greens were in fine shape. After golf we enjoyed a wonderful ham dinner and an evening of social activities.

CONTROL OF KNOTWEED

Knotweed often becomes a pest in lawns, especially along the edges of sidewalks and other areas where foot traffic is heavy, or where soil conditions are not favorable for the growth of grass. This weed also invades playground areas in parks and athletic fields Control of knotweed usually is not obtained with water sprays of 2, 4-D. Such applications may be successful, however, if made when the weed is in a very early stage of growth. In most instances, this susceptible stage is missed and poor results are obtained. Trials at East Lansing have shown that control of the weed can be obtained by applying the ester form of 2,4-D i nan oil carrier. The oil used must be relatively non-toxic to vegetation and is used in order to secure penetration of the tough, waxy leaves of knotweed. A water white grade of kerosene may be used as a carrier but best results have been obtained by combining the 2,4-D with a special oil fraction sold as Crabgrass Spray Oil. A satisfactory rate of application is ½ ounce of 2,4-D, acid equivalent, in 1 gallon of oil per 1000 square feet This treatment has not caused any injury to lawn grasses in our trials and can be made at any season when the weed is growing.

In September 1950. an application of endoxohexahydrophthallate, at the rate of ½ ounce per 1000 square feet, was made on knotwood and a complete kill was obtained. This treatment, however, caused a severe burn of Kentucky blue grass and Chewings fescue. Alta fescue was not injured by the treatment, and the Kentucky blue grass eventually recovered.

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THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DILEMMA

Many Superintendents are frequently requested to make recommendatons or assist members with their lawn problems. Naturally such advice is both valuable and helpful but often is expected gratis. Then the Superintendent is put on the spot where his free advice is not appreciated but if he makes a charge for it is more often resented as not. What to do? A Superintendent's job does not include taking care of members lawns. He cannot ethically give professional service to members on the club's time. This would definitely lead to resentment and jealousy because what service any one member might receive, all others would be entitled to on an equal basis Because you cannot often check up on how your advice or instructions are carried out, you may invite criticism that would hurt your professional standing. Free service is never appreciated. It carries just as much weight as it costs, which is nothing.

Thus, firstly, it would seem that your employer or club is entitled to all your time during normal or regular working hours. Demands on you for personal services during that time would seem to be off base. On your own time you are certainly free to practice your profession and your advice is worth compensation. Reasonable charges it seems to the writer would enhance your standing and reputation. A Superintendent's job is diplomatic as well as technical and managerial. As a matter of perfect diplomacy the wisest course would be one hundred percent abstension from rendering individual or outside service. This, however is too much to expect from any Superintendent, and the best thing to do would be to use your own best judgment in any such situation.

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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members into the Association:

Al Pruess, Regular member
Bunker Hill G. C., Niles, Illinois
Rudolph Schmidt, Regular member
Rochelle C. C., Rochelle, Illinois.
Earl Schmitt, Apprentice member.
Sycamore Park District, Sycamore, Illinois.
George Hayward, Apprentice member
Sycamore Park District, Sycamore, Illinois.