

TURF TIPS

Summer Turf Insects

Chinch bugs — Chinch bugs develop best in hot dry weather and cause brown areas in turf by sucking the juices from the grass blades. Look for these brownish-black insects about 1/5 inch long, or less, with white wings folded over their backs in the form of an "X".

Sod webworms — These are larvae of small brownish gray moths which build tunnels lined with silk and covered with grass. The adult moths tends to concentrate over the succulent grass of greens when other turf is brown in dry weather, then drop their eggs on it. Eggs hatch in a week to 10 days and larvae begin feeding immediately on turf. **CONTROL** — 20 ounces of 5% chlordane dust per 1,000 sq. ft. (50 lbs. per acre.)

Cutworms — When fully grown, cutworms are about 1 1/2 inches long, greenish-brown to dark brown above and lighter beneath. They hatch in late summer, feed until cold weather, hibernate over winter, and feed until early summer when they pupate and become adult moths. They feed at night and hide in burrows during the day. **CONTROL** — Same as for sod webworms.

Summer Turf Diseases

Copper spot — Causes small copper-colored circular areas, particularly on velvet bent during periods of high temperature and high humidity. **CONTROL** - Cadmium compounds effective.

Dollar spot — Causes bleached, straw-colored circular scars about 2" in diameter in cool humid weather of early and late summer. **CONTROL** — Either mercury chlorides, OR cadmium, OR phenyl mercury.

Brown patch — First appears as small grayish-black "smoke rings" which enlarge, then the grass within the area turns brown. Common whenever high temperatures and humidity prevail. **CONTROL** — Mercury chlorides, OR thiuram, OR phenyl mercury.

Curvularia and Helminthosporium — Bluegrass and fescues are usually attacked in cool moist weather of early summer, and bents are damaged in warm moist weather. Injury may range from spots on the grass blades to large straw-colored brown areas. **CONTROL** — Either phenyl mercury OR cycloheximide (an anti-biotic.).

Cornell Recommends for Trees, Shrubs, Turf — This bulletin has complete information on insects, diseases, types of grasses, and fertilizer practices for turf and ornamental trees and shrubs. A few copies are still available by contacting this office.

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DISEASE HITS 100 KANKAKEE COUNTY TREES

Dutch elm disease, a destructive fungous ailment of elm trees, is spreading rapidly in Kankakee county, Dr. Leo R. Tehon of the Illinois natural history survey, Urbana, announced yesterday.

More than 100 trees in Kankakee and the surrounding area have been found infected with the disease in recent weeks, Dr. Tehon said. A meeting between him and other scientists from the survey and Kankakee city officials has been called in Kankakee.

The purpose of the meeting is to develop a program to spray trees with DDT and to employ other control measures in an effort to halt spread of the disease, which this year has appeared in more than 20 Illinois counties.

WEED KILLER DAMAGE

Careless use of weed killing chemicals around lawns and gardens can cause headaches for gardeners in the form of damage to flowers, vegetables, shrubs, and trees. Often the harmful effects of the chemicals are delayed until the following season, appearing then as a mysterious "blight" on trees and shrubs.

The chemical, 2, 4-D, is the most common weed killer used by the home gardener. It does an excellent job of destroying broad leaved weeds, including the dandelion, broad leaf plantain and narrow leaf plantain or buckhorn, which are among the most common lawn pests.

As many gardeners have discovered to their discomfort, this material also will do a good job of killing or damaging desirable plants. Curling or any distortion of foliage are symptoms of its effects on susceptible plants, and the plants may die if the dose is strong enough.

A direct application of the spray on a plant is not required. We frequently overlook the fact that desirable plants may be damaged by mist carried on the wind from nearby sprayed areas or even by gaseous vapors from certain types of the chemical which are highly volatile.

A classic example is that reported from Texas, where a field of cotton 8 miles away from the scene of spraying was damaged by 2, 4-D vapor.

There are two types of 2, 4-D, the amine salt formulations and the ester types. Fred Slife, weed control specialist at the University of Illinois college of agriculture, recommends that home gardeners use the amine types. They are available at most garden supply stores.

The reason, Slife explains, is that once applied the amine formulations do not form gaseous vapors that can damage nearby desirable plants. There still is the risk of mist damage, however, and for that reason the best time to apply this weed killer is in the early morning or late evening when there is less wind.

The damage caused by this weed killer usually shows up within a short time. However, it can cause curling and distorted leaves on shrubs and trees to show up as long as a year after it has been applied. Excessive quantities of the chemical can either be absorbed thru the roots and taken up thru the plant by translocation, or mist or vapor from the spray may affect the buds that are forming to produce next season's foliage.



We've heard tree men remark that they didn't realize how relatively little was known about root systems of trees until a few years ago when scientists began delving into the causes of oak wilt, the destructive fungus disease that attacks oaks. It was learned early in the course of study of this disease that the fungus can travel from one tree to another by means of roots that have become grafted naturally.

It was surprising to plant pathologists, however, to find that there was a great deal more natural root grafting than they had previously suspected. It may be that as the study of oak wilt continues, scientists in the next few years will learn much they don't know now about the structure and function of tree roots.

Bill Rueck attended the meeting at Woodridge. Bill is looking fine and says he is very happy in his job at Wauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club at Rockford, Ill. Bill asks us to consider his course for our joint meeting with Wisconsin in 1955.

Andy Dunn, formerly with the Catholic Cemeteries is now associated with Robt. A. Black Company, Riverside, Ill., in a sales engineering capacity.