

ANSWERS

(Continued from page 7)

1. Phenyl-Mercuric-Acetate-Solution.
2. 38 Per cent.
3. In a cubic yard of sand. 2800 lbs.
4. 43,560 square feet (or 44,000 sq. ft.).
5. 3-1/2 acres.
6. 7.48 or 7-1/2 gallons.
7. 8.3 lbs.
8. Leaf spot or melting out are both correct.
9. 5,024 square feet.
10. Any fungicide that will control two or more plant diseases.

CHINCH BUGS

From the Westchester County Farm &
Home News - June 19, 1963

Quick death of turfgrass is often caused by the hairy chinchbug, a June lawn pest. Death of the grass is caused by the chinchbugs feeding habit of sucking the cell sap from grass blades. Grass will turn yellow and then brown out in areas where a heavy population is feeding.

Injury from the chinchbug is often first noticed on a sunny slope of the lawn. Generally, a spot is killed out which seems to spread wider and wider in area. The dead area is made more noticeable by small areas of healthy clover left behind unaffected by the chinchbugs. Often Merion bluegrass will also be left behind and not injured. Spot sizes range from one foot and can eventually engulf the entire lawn area.

Where to Find Chinchbugs —

When your turf browns out and if the area affected begins to enlarge, the first step is to find the insect to be sure of your problem. As these insects suck the juices out of plants you naturally wouldn't expect them to be in the dried up dead areas of the lawn. As they soon yellow and kill grass with their feeding you would not expect many to be found in the healthy turf, either. This leaves only one logical place to look for chinchbugs and that's in the area which just borders the dead grass.

How to Locate Chinchbugs —

The best method of locating chinchbugs is to get on your hands and knees and to part the grass to the ground in this border area. By waiting a few seconds movement of the disturbed chinchbug will be noticed. These insects are less than 1/5 inch long when mature. The adult is black with white wing markings. The immature insect is anywhere from

coral-red to black with a white stripe across his back. When looking at this insect the first thing which enters your mind is that he is too small to do all the damage you found.

Other methods to find chinch bugs are to either cut off both ends of a tin can and shove it in the ground and fill with water or to place a white cloth over the border area between good and dead grass and then flood the area. After 5-25 minutes the chinch bug should be found either floating on top of the water or clinging to the underside of the white cloth.

Treatment —

When found chinch bugs can be treated with Chlordane or DDT. Where resistant varieties are found try Sevin, Diazinon, Ethion or Trithion. Water the lawn thoroughly before treating or treat after a good rain. Chinchbugs hide in the lower portions of the grass and this watering forces them up making it more likely they get a lethal dose.

PAUL E. BURDETT

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