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ARMOUR TURF PROGRAM

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A Little Something on Sprayers

by Stanley Rachesky

Extension Entomologist, University of Illinois

There are all types of sprayers on the market today to fit every golf course superintendent's needs. The choice depends on the job to be completed and the material being used. Of course, selection of spraying equipment should be in your budget. Be sure to ask yourself a few questions before purchasing, such as: Does it handle and operate easily? Is it simple to fill and clean? Is it big enough? Is the manufacturer reputable? Is it well-made with non-corroding parts? How long will it last if given good care? Price should not be your main consideration.

The 2 or 3 gallon tank type sprayer is probably the most effective piece of small spray equipment suitable for spraying shrubbery and small trees. Careful application for complete plant coverage is needed because of low pressure and low rate of discharge of the chemical.

For spraying large trees, power equipment is needed. Hydraulic sprayers that develop 500-600 pounds of pressure and deliver approximately 40 gallons of material per minute is suitable for spraying large trees. However, it is very difficult to completely cover large trees from the ground. Much spray material is wasted trying to reach the tops of all trees.

A mist blower gives better coverage than a hydraulic sprayer on large trees. In the mist blower, a spray concentrate is discharged into a blast of air that travels through an outlet at a velocity of 100-120

m.p.h. The spray can be directed to all parts of even large trees.

Incomplete coverage sometimes will check some leaf eating insects such as the cankerworm, but such insects as scale and elm bark beetle (Dutch elm disease vector) require complete coverage. This is very difficult to obtain even when using the best equipment. The tree must be sprayed systematically from many angles and at a time of the day when wind velocity is almost zero and temperature is not a factor. Early evening is usually the best time. Ground spraying, supplemented by helicopter spraying will give the best coverage one could hope for on the golf course.

Helicopter spraying is becoming more and more popular because of the apparently excellent coverage of spray material, time, effort, and money saved. However, only very careful inspection of a tree or shrub after spraying will show whether proper coverage in your particular situation has been obtained.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

1 — Ideal Mod. # 900 Lawnmower sharpener,
1 — Ideal Mod. # 50 Bed knife sharpener. Used only 60 hours, like new. Contact Dorothy V. Burke. Tel.: 935-7404.