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Hole of Sapsucker

by Stanley Rachesky
Entomologist — University of Illinois

Every year about this time I receive calls from homeowners complaining about borers eating holes in their pine trees. Homeowners are always annoyed because the holes seem to be in a rather neat row. The culprit is a bird called the yellowbellied sapsucker. The birds apparently peck the holes in the pines and feed on the sap that oozes into the hole.

I must relate a funny story to you regarding yellowbellied sapsuckers. Sometimes they peck too many holes in the pine tree and don't feed on all the sap. The holes naturally fill up with sap and when the sap and tree sugars set for a while, you know what happens! That's right — they ferment. When the bird comes back and feeds on several of those fermented holes, he isn't going to be acting normally. So don't be alarmed if you see a yellowbellied sapsucker lying on the ground flapping his wings and singing up a storm. He's probably one drunk bird! He'll probably be a little quieter the next day. In fact you might even see him resting in the pine tree, nursing a hangover, with an ice pack on his head and a bottle of bird aspirin next to him on the branch.

I've also been receiving questions on how to tell if an old insecticide is still good. The ideal thing to do, of course, is to try to buy only what you will use in one season. So who's ideal? Nobody, not even me! Take a small jar and fill it full of water. Add a couple tablespoons of liquid concentrate insecticide in question. Put the lid on the jar and shake it to mix it up. Let it set for one hour. If you get a separation and layering instead of a nice even milky suspension, the material is probably not good. For wettable powders, I'm going to assume that all of your packages have been closed up tight and kept out of a wet area. If the powder isn't caked, chances are it's still OK.

For dusts and granules about all I can say is that if the material is not more than two years old, and the packages are still tightly sealed, they're probably OK.

Keep in mind that it's difficult to look at a certain material and tell if it has lost its strength. The only real way to find out is through a chemical or biological assay.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Every so often it's a good idea to stop where we are and analyze ourselves, where we are, where we've been and where we are going.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Ray Gerber
865 Hillside Avenue
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
Dear Ray:

Just a quick note to inform you the the Michigan State University Turfgrass Field Day will be held in East Lansing on September 13, 1973. A number of representatives from the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents have attended our Field Day in the past. I thought I should send you a note regarding our schedule of events, so that you might announce it at an upcoming meeting or post it in the Bull Sheet. A detailed program will be mailed to interested individuals that have attended previous events sometime in mid-August.

I appreciate receiving the Bull Sheet regularly. It is a good way for me to keep up on what is going on in the Chicago area.

Sincerely yours,
James B. Beard
Professor
Department of Crop and Soil Science

W. A. Cleary wishes to announce the Cleary's 3336™ Systemic Turf Fungicide has recently received E.P.A. Registration No. 1001-50. The product is now fully registered and is not on experimental permit use anymore. The registration of 3336 Fungicide can now be applied to all turfgrass areas. 3336 is registered for the prevention and control of Dollar Spot, Leaf Spot, Brown Patch, Copper Spot, Red Thread, Fusarium Blight and Pythium.

MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF FOUNDATION

From: W. H. Daniel
Re: Midwest Turf Field Day, September 24, 1973.
Our Field Day will be September 24 — 9:30 to 4:00 p.m. We would be pleased to have you list it in programs or inform members at monthly meetings.

Proceedings Available

For \$2.00 the Proceedings of the Midwest Regional Turf Conference, just printed, is available by mail from:

W. H. Daniel
Midwest Regional Turf Foundation
Department of Agronomy
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907

Thirty-eight articles, condensed into 72 pages, provides excellent reference on current turf information. Proceeding from the 1972, 1971, 1970 and 1969 Conferences are also available at the same price.

Those members of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (361) attending the Conference in 1973 or others attending (760) should receive their copies of the 1973 Proceedings — mailed in mid-July.

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