

Insect Control Products Take New Direction in '95

by R. L. Brandenburg
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As I look at new turf insect pest control options for 1995, I see a continuing effort to produce new products that are both environmentally and socially acceptable.

Odor is a consideration. The public often becomes alarmed about pesticide use if they can smell the product. Some feel that if they smell a strong odor they are receiving an unhealthy exposure. Others simply don't want to smell such products. Even a modest odor from pesticides uses is, therefore, less than desirable.

Consider the DowElanco Dursban product. This 2EC formulation of chlorpyrifos is a lower odor formulation that will make it more acceptable for some uses and users.

The new formulation will replace other Dursban formulations and features a special low-odor carrier system, a "Caution" label signal word, and an expanded label for broader spectrum insect control.

Use of synthetic pyrethroids has been heavily researched in recent years and is resulting in numerous new products. Tempo 2, by Miles Inc., chronoicotinyl. The broad spectrum product controls a number of soil pests in both turf and ornamentals.

It also controls by both contact and ingestion. A granular formulation is planned for release in 1995.

Merit 75WSP offers long residual activity at low use rates, low mammalian toxicity, and a "Caution" signal word.

Merit appears to be most effective when used as a preventive treatment applied during egg laying or early egg hatch of such insect pests as white grubs.

Products such as Turplex bioinsecticide from Scotts Pro-turf and Agridyne Technologies represent efforts to use naturally occurring insecticides. The active ingredient in this product is azadirachtin, which is extracted from the seed of the tropical neem tree. It is a natural product.

Azadirachtin acts as an insect growth regulator and affects larval stages of insects. It disrupts development. It kills the insect rather slowly, but stops feeding almost immediately. The product is practically nontoxic to people, mammals, and birds.

A final area of interest is use of entomogenous nematodes. New products, including Vector TL and Vector MC, biosys products by Lesco, have become available the past year. These products have gained a lot of attention, not only because of their unique nature, but also because dramatic improvements have been made in product formulations.

Buying living organisms in a jug, pouring them in a sprayer, and applying them to a turf area to attack pest species almost sounds like something from a science fiction movie.

The products do, however, require special considerations in application, the environmental conditions, and expectations. Screens and filters must be removed from sprayers. Products must be applied to moist soils and ir-

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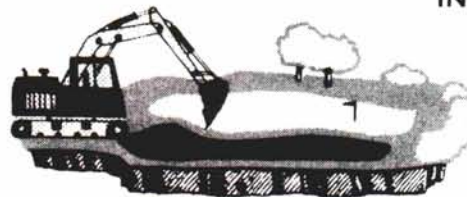
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(Insect Control Products continued)

rigated immediately after treatment. Nematodes are generally slow to produce results. With mole crickets, up to three weeks may be required before a reduction in damage is evident. However, environmental safety makes them excellent choices in some ecologically sensitive areas.

This is only a brief overview of new directions for insect pest control. Inclusion of trade names does not indicate endorsement nor does exclusion indicate any sort of criticism.

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From a Local Correspondent

by John N. MacLeod

During May and early June I played in two annual golf outings; the Golf Collectors Society Hickory Hacker held at Schaumburg Golf Club and the Illinois St. Andrews Society Kilted Classic held at Arrowhead Golf Club. Golf attire was turn of the century nickers and of course Scottish kilts respectively. Nick Hougisto and Jim Roberts of Schaumburg G.C. and Bob Breen and Tom Byrne of Arrowhead G.C. had their courses in great shape for the outings. I know they all got a kick out of seeing me and others in our nickers and Highland dress. And speaking of dress, when hot weather hit this June the problem of proper attire on the golf course became an issue. Dress codes and rules requiring shirts are usual standards for most courses, but many people peel down to beat the heat. This reminds me of a story about two famous California golfers. On a hot August day comedians George Burns and Harpo Marx came to Hillcrest Country Club to play a round of golf. It was very hot, over 100 degrees, and they decided to play without shirts. When course officials heard about this, they hurried to find them. Shirts were to be worn at all times they were told firmly. "Why?" demanded Burns, "we can go to the beach without them." "Rules are rules" was the reply, it's in the rules book ... so the comedians put their shirts back on and continued to play. A little later someone rushed to the clubhouse to say that Burns and Marx were now playing without their pants. Out rushed the course officials, and sure enough the pair had shirts on but were now playing in their undershorts. One official yelled "you can't play without pants". Harpo Marx reminded the official of their rule book. "It says we can't play without shirts, but show me the rule that says we can't play without pants". I wonder what the rules committee would have said about wearing kilts?!!

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