

## LATE SPRING TURF GRASS DISEASE

Stripe smut of turfgrasses has become increasingly important in recent years. Kentucky bluegrass, creeping bentgrass, and annual bluegrass are affected by this perennial disease.

One should periodically inspect sod and turfgrass areas during May and June for stripe smut. It is one of the few turfgrass diseases which survives the winter in stolons and crowns. The fungus then grows systematically in the direction of new spring stolon and tiller development.

Black, soot-like stripes running parallel with the grass blade veins may be the first signs of stripe smut in May or June. Infected plants become stunted and pale green to yellow while individual leaf blades may be curled. Although growth of the causal agent, *Ustilago striiformis*, within stolons is greatest at temperatures between 60-70° F, evidence of the disease may not appear until warmer temperatures.

Turfgrass showing disease symptoms usually dies in patches because of high temperatures and moisture stress during July and August. However, if turf areas receive extremely good (adequate fertility and moisture) infected plants may not die. This may be the reason stripe appears more severe in turf which has a high level of management.

Best control is the use of varieties which show resistance to stripe smut. A-20, A-34, Anheuser dwarf, Baron, Delta, Fylking, Park, Pennstar, and Sodco are varieties with varying degrees of resistance. Merion, Newport, Prato, and Windsor commonly show symptoms of stripe smut and are among the most susceptible varieties of bluegrass. There does not seem to be any great differences in susceptibility between creeping bentgrass varieties. However, smut free seed or seed treated with either thiram or captan can greatly reduce the disease. Tersan 1991, applied in late fall or early spring at the rate of six ounces in five or ten gallons of water per 1,000 square feet, can be used for control of existing disease areas.

Dr. T. E. Plockington  
Plant Pathologist  
Joliet Junior College

## TUCO INTRODUCES INSECTICIDE FOR TURF, LAWNS, AND ORNAMENTALS

A NEW insecticide for control of turf, lawn, and ornamental insect pests has been introduced by TUCO, Division of The Upjohn Company.

The new insecticide, Proxol 80 SP, is a water-soluble powder designed for use on golf courses and other large fine turf grass areas, lawns, and ornamentals. It is effective against sod webworms, cutworms, and chinch bugs in fine turf and controls numerous insects affecting ornamentals. It also provides control of those insects resistant to chlorinated hydrocarbons.

TUCO researchers report that Proxol is one of the fastest-acting turf and ornamental insecticides on the market, as it kills insects either on contact or ingestion into the stomach. Sod webworms and cutworms are killed within 48 hours of application. The insecticide can be used alone or in conjunction with disease control programs employing TUCO's Acti-dione fungicides.

Proxol breaks down rapidly and does not accumulate in the environment. It has little effect on beneficial insects when applied according to directions. The insecticide is available from TUCO distributors throughout the United States.

## Pest aside

### CREEPERS! INSECTS KEEP ON COMING!

by Stanley Rachesky

Entomologist — University of Illinois

#### THE INSECTS keep coming and coming and coming.

Keep your eyes open in the next few weeks for a variety of insect problems that may pop up in your back yard. Stroll around your property during the evening hours and check over your trees and shrubs for developing problems. Ninety-nine per cent of the time the average homeowner doesn't catch the problem until the shrub is half gone.

Tree borers will soon begin feeding under the bark of trees. Check for sawdust-like material (called frass) being pushed out of the holes made in the bark. These holes can be located just about anywhere on the tree; in the trunk, on branches.

A tree that is dead or in a dying condition near the top shows the first indication of a borer problem. A favorite tree of area residents is the birch. Bronze birch borers are very prevalent in northern Illinois and have killed a large number of these beautiful trees.

The University of Illinois recommends the insecticide dimethoate (also known as Cygon or De-Fend) for control. Use at the rate of two teaspoons per gallon of water. Spray the trunks and limbs thoroughly. A repeat spray treatment should be applied three weeks after the initial application.

Newly set trees should have their trunks wrapped with heavy paper for the first two years or until the trees are growing vigorously. Keep your trees well fertilized and watered. A healthy tree will survive a borer attack much better than one that is not in the best of condition.

Eastern tent caterpillars are just about ready to leave their webs and begin defoliating trees. As the weather warms the feeding activity increases and so does the damage. Check your trees for webs.

The Eastern tent caterpillar especially likes wild cherry; however, it is also found in great abundance on willow, peach, apple, and a variety of ornamental trees. Control may be accomplished by spraying with Sevin (carbaryl). This insecticide is available as a 50 per cent wettable powder, or as a liquid concentrate. Follow label directions for application rates.

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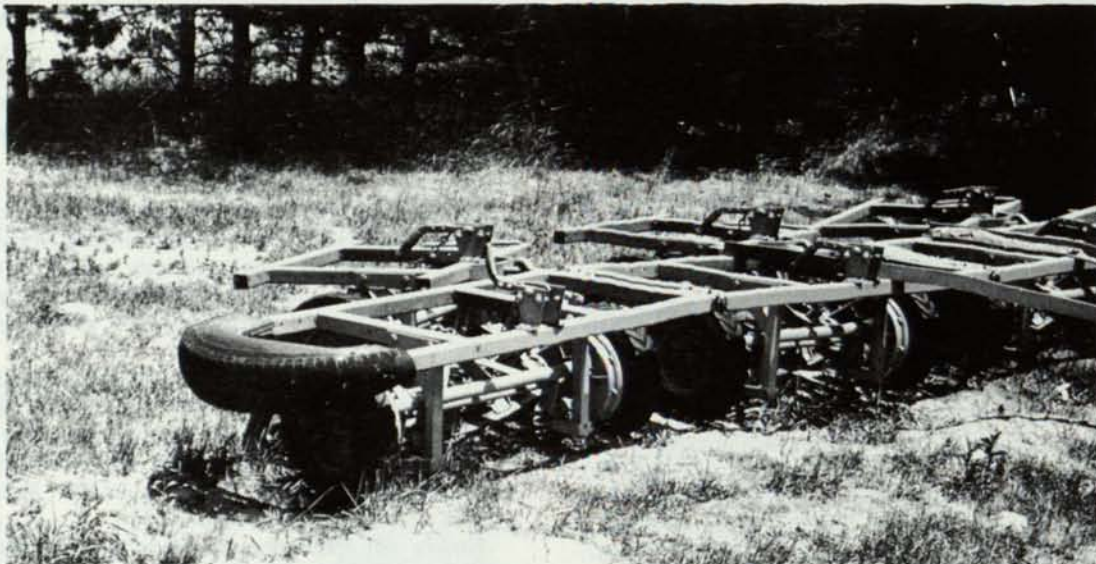
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# A TURF TIP FROM BERT:

## U.S.G.A. GREEN SECTION

Bert Rost, Superintendent at Elcona Country Club, Elkhart, Ind., has bolted sections of a rubber tire to the frame of his rough mowing units to serve as bumpers. These bumpers are helpful in avoiding damage to trees. The cost of the bumper or tree guard is minimal; all that is needed are old tires and a few bolts.



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To apply for an open burning permit for landscape waste, the following eleven statements must be answered by the applicant. These statements must be answered clearly and completely, so the Agency can ascertain if the applicant has complied with the requirements of Chapter 2: Air Pollution, Part V: Open Burning. The answers to these statements must be in duplicate. The letter shall be signed by the owner, partner or, in the case of a corporation, an authorized person including evidence of such authority.

1. State the primary business of your organization and how it relates to this operation.
2. State make and model of air curtain destructor or comparable device to be used to reduce contaminant emissions substantially and if the manufacturer has provided written instructions in the use of the device.
3. State if the burning will take place within 1,000 feet of any residential or other populated area.
4. State the quantity of landscape waste to be burned.
5. State the nature and quantities of air contaminants to be emitted by the open burning.
6. State how you will dispose of the residue from the open burning. If the residue is to be deposited at a landfill, state the exact location of the landfill.
7. State the frequency, including dates where appropriate, when the open burning will take place.
8. State the location of the burning site. Include with your application maps adequate to show direction and distances to residence, populated areas, roadways, airfields, rivers, lakes, etc.
9. State the methods or actions which will be taken to reduce the emission of air contaminants.
10. State why alternatives to open burning are not available to the applicant.
11. State why open burning is necessary to public interest.

Very truly yours,  
Keith J. Conklin, P.E.  
Manager, Permit Section  
Division of Air Pollution Control

Mallinckrodt Chemical Works is introducing FUNGO (TM) 50 brand turf fungicide, a broad spectrum, systemic agent, based on the methyl form of thiophanate, for control of a wide variety of turf diseases, according to an announcement by Stan Frederiksen, Manager of Specialty Agricultural products for the firm.

Competitively priced and competitive at the cost-in-use level, FUNGO controls most of the important diseases which attack turf. At modest treatment rates, it controls Brown Patch, Dollar Spot, Fusarium Patch (pink snow mold), and Copper Spot. At somewhat higher rates, carefully drenched in, FUNGO-50 readily controls Fusarium Blight (Fusarium roseum), Stripe Smut, and Powdery Mildew.

According to the announcement, FUNGO may be tank-mixed with KOBAN® fungicide to achieve an even broader spectrum of control, including Pythium, or with THIRAMAD®, maneb, or zineb for control of leaf spot and/or melting out diseases during spring and early fall.

Highly effective, and quite economical in use, FUNGO is safe on the finest turf. Rates as high as eight times the minimums have thus far produced no turf damage or discoloration.

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