No More Moles, By Gum

If you have moles in your turf, you probably have grubs too. The moles become residents because of the handy supply of tasty grubs. If you treat the lawn with diazinon to kill the grubs, the moles should leave.

If you are into more exotic mole control methods, however, you might like to try Juicy Fruit gum. Wearing plastic gloves so no human scent is transferred to the gum, make a slit in an active mole run, unwrap a fresh stick of gum, roll it up like a little carpet and drop it in the run; then replace the sod.

After a day or so, the consumed gum gums up the critter's insides and it dies. The Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company is aware of this side effect. A spokeswoman said, "It's a good thing our product doesn't have that effect on everybody."

Credit: "Divots" 9/85

Dutch Elm Disease Update

Scientists continue to make progress against Dutch elm disease. The U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., recently released two new elm cultivars, 'Homestead' and 'Pioneer', both of which are resistant to Dutch elm disease. In another exciting development, Nursery Crops Research in Delaware, Ohio, is studying cuttings from a few surviving wild American elms *(Ulmus americana)* in one Ohio town that appear to be naturally resistant to the disease. Even after direct innoculation of the fungus, cuttings from these trees are showing promise of survival. These trees may become the genetic foundation for reestablishment of the American elm, which once graced parks and roadways throughout the eastern U.S.

Credit: American Horticulturist, 3/86

Watering Lawns — How Much is Enough?

Lawn care must be defined in terms of turf quality expected for the amount of irrigation water applied, according to Horticulturist J. D. Butler of Colorado State University. Applications of less water than that used by lawngrasses is considered deficit irrigation practice. How long can such practice continue?

One hundred percent of the water used by the plant/soil system does not need to be reapplied in order to produce fine turf. In recent tests, Kentucky bluegrass lawns decreased only about ten percent in quality when an irrigation schedule provided seventy three percent of the water used by the lawngrasses.

When less than seventy percent of water used was reapplied in the form of irrigation, the quality of the lawngrasses was lower when turf was mowed one inch in height than when mowed at two inches.

Decreasing water used increased turfgrass canopy temperature about four degrees F. for each ten percent decrease in irrigation up to about seventy percent of the total water used by the lawngrasses. Thus, temperature of the grass foliage is an important factor to consider when planning how to best manage municipal water resources.

Buildings, trees and privacy fences all restrict air movement and slow convective mixing with higher air currents, thus creating a boundary layer. Higher air temperatures can be expected in this region when irrigation rates are decreased below use requirements of the lawngrasses. These higher temperatures may inhibit enjoyment of out-of-doors activities and increase home air conditioning requirements.

The Lawn Institute