

Mole Cricket Alert

Information compiled
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Florida Cooperative Extension Service

It is that time of year when you folks are hassled with those cute little critters called mole crickets. Estimates indicate mole cricket population is once again on the rise in Central Florida. The presence of mole crickets is indicated by burrows in soil, loose soil, uprooted seedlings, and damaged roots.

The major mole crickets found in Florida on bahia grass, zoysia grass, and bermuda grass are the southern mole cricket (*scapteriscus acletus* R.) and the Puertorican mole cricket (*scapteriscus vicinus* scudd). Mole crickets are odd, velvety, greenish-brownish creatures, 1½" long. Has short forelegs and shovel-like feet with large beady eyes. They live in the soil and even one cricket can cause severe damage on a lawn in a short time by loosening the soil and feeding on grass roots. They are active nocturnally, prefer humid conditions, and a temperature above 70°F. During warm humid conditions especially after a rain or irrigation, they can be found on the soil surface gathering bits of food. They lay eggs in the spring, usually in underground cells which hatch in about two weeks during April or May. The nymphs become adults by fall. The mole crickets have only one generation per year.

Control

Under proper temperature (above 65°N) and moisture conditions mole crickets can be controlled by sprays, granules or baits. Proper timing, proper frequency (two applications 10 days to 2 weeks apart) and proper application are important. Several golf courses have been very successful in controlling mole crickets during late May or early June when nymphs are still very small. A mole cricket bait (0.5% to 2%) containing Baygon, Dursban or Toxaphene applied during July and August has provided satisfactory control. Recently, best results have been obtained with 5% granules of Mocap. As far as we know, Scott's brand is the only formulation of Mocap that has mole crickets included on the label. More information on the availability of this product can be obtained through O.M. Scott's representative, Mr. Keith Webster. His telephone number is (813) 644-1606. Mocap is a restricted pesticide and is recommended for commercial use only. ■

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No Superintendents Meeting

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Joe Konwinski, retired area superintendent and Palm Beach Junior College turf instructor, moderated the program. The session was held at the Palm Beach Junior College, Lake Worth campus. Otis Harvey, Dean of Continued Education, and Fred Hollings, Coordinator of Continued Education, supplied the superb facility.

A variety of subjects were covered. Dr. Max Brown, Liquid Ag Systems; spoke on all types of fertilizer and the turfgrass nutritional need. Bob Fretz, head sales representative, and Tom Peyton, service manager, from Trail Ford Tractor Company discussed diesel and gas engine repairs and maintenance. Bob Lewis, service manager for Mity Mite Motors, reviewed small engine trouble shooting and repair. Cliff Quinn, Rainbird Irrigation, explained irrigation design, installation and repair. Chuck Ankrom, golf course architect, discussed golf course design and construction. He also reviewed his recent trip to Scotland with excellent slides of their courses. Many whispers of disbelief were heard in the audience about the contrast between "true golf" and the American version.

Next year's program is already being planned. Next year make sure your staff is part of this success story. ■

Let's Tip Our Hats to the Areas's Golf Course Superintendents

By VINCE SMITH

The year 1980 has been a spectacular period for golf growth in Southwest Florida and the bulk of the game's incredible expansion has come in the area of development-type facilities.

The architects of these fine new lower Gulf Coast playing facilities and the club professionals who will oversee the actual golfing operations have been duly acknowledged from time to time.

There is, however, one segment of the technicians whose work in making these new outdoor playing arenas an instrumental part of our lifestyle who still do not receive adequate recognition.

The body of men so integral to a successful golf course program is the golf course superintendents who supply such vital input into bringing these new facilities up to good playing standards.

Bob Sanderson, golf course superintendent at Port Charlotte Country Club and the prime moving factor behind the increasing ascendancy of the Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association, dropped a gentle reminder several weeks ago that the superintendents at these new clubs should not go unnoticed.

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