

Dragonflies forever

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don't get bugged by bugs.

Through the Audubon Society, White found a company that breeds dragonflies, basically to provide school biology classes. Since then, White has bought 1,000 dragonfly naiads (nymphs) each year and distributed them in his ponds and streams.

"It does not matter if it's running or stagnant water," White said. "But they do recommend naturally occurring standing water."

The naiads are shipped overnight in the springtime — 50 or 100 per container. They cost \$27 for 50, \$52 for 100 and \$468 for 1,000 naiads.

White said the naiads usually don't hatch into adults until the following spring because they are adjusting to their new environment. But, according to the Audubon Society Field Guide to Insects and Spiders, that varies from species to species.

The Green Darner, for instance, is found throughout North America and crawls out of the water in early spring or late summer to transform into an adult. The Green Darner transforms in May in New England but in October in Alabama. The 365 Widow emerges as adults in the late summer in the North but in April in the South.

'Aerifier dolly'

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the machine rests on is 2-inch "C" channel steel. The back three are 6 inches in length and the "C" channel is 2 by 3 inches high, so the back three have "C" channel that runs parallel to the base of the machine.

"The front two brackets are 6 inches long as well, but do not run parallel to the frame. Instead they run perpendicular to the frame. It is also 2-inch "C" channel but is turned upside down and welded at the center. At both ends of these 6-inch pieces of upside-down "C" channel is another piece of "C" channel welded on to it that runs upward, also at 3 inches.

The brackets are wider in the front because the Toro 687 that rests in it is wider in the front.

The three weight trays on the back of the Toro 687 are all independent and narrow enough to use 6-inch "C" channel running parallel to the machine, Ellis explained.

The two front risers and the outside two risers on the back are 13 inches from the outside of the frame, Ellis said. The center riser (on the rear only) is 37-1/2 inches, or exactly centered in the back. These five risers are all equal height off the frame: 12 inches high to the base of the channel. The metal was painted with a primer and then Rust-oleum.

"It took Kim between three and four hours to build it," Davis said. "It cost \$200 for the steel and paint and \$80 for the casters, which are heavy-duty rated for 460-pound load range per wheel and were obtained from Grainger, part # 1F147. I am very pleased with Kim's usual good work that really shows that integrity and hard work pays off." ▶

And Gomphid dragonflies fly from April to September in the North but from June through October in Texas.

For the inquisitive mind wondering how the adults eat: "It is scientifically proven that they collect insects on their wings as they fly, then eat them off their wings," offered White.

Even if the dragonflies were not effective mosquito munchers, White said the public-relations value is worth it. So far, their use on the golf course has been word of mouth, but he said he is considering signs on the course informing golfers of the dragonfly project. ▶

PGMS, GREEN INDUSTRY EXPO READY

BALTIMORE, Md. — The 1999 Conference of the Professional Grounds Management Society, coupled with the Green Industry Expo, is scheduled for Nov. 13-16 at the Convention Center and the Marriott Inner Harbor Hotel here.

The three GIE partner organizations (PGMS, ALCA and PLCAA) will present more than 50 separate education sessions at the convention center, with each organization sponsoring approximately one-third of the sessions.

The PGMS subjects for 1999 include team-building; IPM of perennials and ornamental grasses; skin concerns for grounds professionals; maintaining a positive attitude; moving big trees; becoming a certified grounds manager; athletic field construction; preserving trees during construction; environmental stewardship; diagnosing site-related problems; use of topiaries in the landscape; control of Canadian geese; understanding landscape and herbicide use; managing grounds at a major league ballpark; using native plants in the landscape; sports turf care and trends; and maintaining the U.S. capitol landscape.

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