

Temperature: The effect of temperature on survival varies with nematode species and strains. Nematode species isolated from temperate regions tend to be more tolerant of low temperature than species isolated from tropical or subtropical regions. Soil temperature determines the activity and efficacy of EPNs. If is too cold, they are in-

active and therefore will not seek the hosts. Conversely, if the soil is too warm, they will use up their energy source too quickly.

**U.V.:** Nematodes will die from ultraviolet light. From a practical viewpoint, the application of EPNs is recommended in early morning, late afternoon or on cloudy days to minimize detrimental effects of desiccation, ultraviolet light and extreme temperatures.

#### **Application Time**

**Fall & spring:** Fall application is a crucial factor to control pest population and their damage. Application from August to the end of September (depending on the weather and soil temperature) when the young instar of European chafer and Japanese beetle larvae are hatched from their eggs would be the an ideal time for EPN application. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year grubs of June beetle can also be controlled at this time. Fall applications will decrease grub populations under threshold levels, which means preventing both fall and spring damage.

Grubs in Ontario generally overwinter as larvae. With increasing weather and soil temperatures, overwintering larvae will move from the deeper soil depth to the upper layer. When soil temperatures rise above  $10^{\circ}$ C (late April to early May in Ontario), this would be the time for EPN application. The EPN spring application (even against the last instar of pest larvae, which have tougher bodies) can reduce the total number of grubs by reducing the number of fertilized adults in the next months. Note: Spring application will be necessary only if grubs are found in the soil. This application indicates necessity for fall application.

#### **Method of Application**

**Home gardeners & landscapers:** First step is to pre-water the area being treated thoroughly 5-8 cm deep. If EPNs are on sponges, remove sponge from sealed bag and rinse both sponge and bag in a minimum of 4 litres of water to make a concentrate. Stir the concentrate vigorously to suspend nematodes equally as they are heavier than water. Use a hose-end sprayer or pump sprayer to apply immediately (100 gal/2000 ft<sup>2</sup>). In powder carriers, the nematodes should be diluted in a large amount of water (a minimum of 25 gal) and apply immediately (2.25 gal/ 100ft<sup>2</sup>).

**Turfgrass:** For larger areas, nematodes can be applied by using conventional agitating spraying systems such as pump, back-pack, truck sprayers, an overhead/ misting sprayer system or soil injecting sprayer. Nematodes can be sprayed using a common type nozzle with an opening ranging from 50 microns to 1 mm. It is recommended to remove the finer screens. Recently, a soil injecting nematode applicator was developed for turfgrass which potentially could increase nematode efficacy and may decrease the cost for application.

#### Post Application & Monitoring For Controlled Results

**Expected time for pest control:** It is theoretically possible for EPNs to kill their host after 48-72 hours, but because of natural barriers in the soil, it is highly unlikely this occurs in the field.

**Reapplication:** The same as all other pesticides, EPN application will not obtain 100% mortality in the grub's population. A percent of beneficial nematodes can survive during the winter in the soil, but to reach a higher level of pest control, reapplication will be necessary.

#### Conclusion

- Know the pest insect and timing of its life cycle.
- Know the temperature of the soil.
- Know that the larvae are present.
- The soil must be wet to below the level of the grubs.
- Apply in low UV times.
- Water well after application to ensure the nematodes are past the surface layer and down to the root level of the grass.
- Keep the soil watered for 3-4 days after application.
- A spring infestation indicates a fall application must be done.

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# Supervising in 2011 Means More Than Wearing the Hat and a Pay Raise

Terry Piche, Technical Director, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc.

Somewhere in the workplace today a worker is not using a seat belt; is talking on a hand held device while driving or; is not wearing all appropriate safety wear. Each example has accountability if the worker is caught by a governing authority. Failing to properly train workplace supervisors has the same accountability. Today's workplaces are obligated to clearly define and evaluate their supervisory needs. The definition or sanction of such individuals cannot come from the Human Resources Department nor, does it have any connection to compensation or benefit packages. Supervisory obligations are clearly defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) as: "a person who has charge of a workplace or authority over a worker."

n my observations, park and greenspace operations often break their workforce into teams. Each is given a vehicle, a variety of equipment and set tasks to be completed throughout the work day. This work directive is usually completed by the recognized operational supervisor or manager. Each team is then sent on their way, often not in contact with the original operational supervisor or manager for the rest of the day. The person who is by default leading the team in the field is accepting supervisory responsibilities for both themself and those under their watch. At this point, the suggested "point person" throws up their hands and states, "this is not my job"! They identify that they are not listed as a supervisor, nor are they compensated for such responsibility. As much as they may wish to side step this workplace obligation, the fact is, should an accident occur, they

## OTS HIGHLIGHT Presented February in Guelph, Ontario.

will be caught in the backdraft of an investigation with their primary defence being, "I didn't know it was my responsibility"! Regrettably, "not knowing" is an unacceptable legal defence to accountability.



Canadian Dermatology Association Association canadienne de dermatologie

# LET'S WORK AT SUN SAFETY

If you work outdoors, you have a higher risk for developing skin cancer. Protect yourself.

For further information, visit www.dermatology.ca/outdoorworkers

- Seek shade
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- Use an SPF 30 broad spectrum sunscreen.





Remember, to meet basic acceptable training standards the session must include written materials and a testing mechanism. Merely explaining your workplace culture is not enough!

Selecting a supervisor in any work environment must be done carefully with some logic and supervisory competency must be trackable. The common past practice of promotion to workplace supervisor based solely on seniority or age needs to be re-evaluated. The basic supervisory requirements to be considered in meeting the definition of a "competent person" are defined in the OHSA as being:

- Qualified because of knowledge, training and experience to organize the work and its performance,
- Familiar with the OHSA and the regulations that apply to the work, and
- Has knowledge of any potential or actual danger to health or safety in the workplace (personne compétente).

Consider the team we defined earlier and now take a look at the person who by default (let's call them supervisor) is in charge of the unit (because this is his/her second summer) and answer these basic questions to their competency:

- What level of knowledge does the supervisor have in respect to internal policies and procedures?
- Has the supervisor received "supervisory" training?
- What level of training has he/she received on the tools and equipment that are to be used?
- Is the supervisor's 1-year of previous workplace experience adequate for him/her to provide leadership?
- Is the supervisor aware of the OHSA and how it is applied? Is he/she upto-date on other legislation that may be applied as they go about their other duties (i.e. CSA Standard for Children's Playspaces & Equipment)?
- Has the supervisor been updated on previous health and safety issues in the workplace?

One of Ontario's Ministry of Labour (MOL) inspection objectives is workplace supervisor competence. The MOL believes that the basic supervisory abilities must percolate down from the top of each organization. Failure to properly train workplace supervisors, or not provide adequate worker supervision, will result in fines and or incarceration for extreme circumstance.

Remember, to meet basic acceptable training standards the session must include written materials and a testing mechanism. Merely bringing someone aside and explaining your workplace culture and expectations will not suffice! ORFA, a Parks and Open Space Alliance partner, offers supervisory training workshops to help you meet your supervisory competency training objectives. Please feel free to reach me at tpiche@orfa.com or 416.426.7062 should you wish to investigate this training opportunity further.

#### **SUBMISSIONS**

Have a great article idea or job site story you'd like to share? We welcome submissions (including photos) on a variety of turf-related topics. For details, contact Lee at the STA office.



# **Industry News** KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH NEW PARTNERSHIPS & PRODUCTS



## **Rubber From Dandelion?**

It might be a stretch, but Guelph plant breeder Dave Wolyn hopes to coax natural rubber from Russian dandelion to feed a growing global rubber market and to offer a potentially lucrative new crop for farmers in southern Ontario.

This summer, he'll conduct plant trials using dandelion seeds from Kazakhstan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Those trials will help determine whether Russian dandelion can become a new field crop for a natural rubber industry. The research is supported by the Sand Plains Community Development Fund in Tillsonburg, Ont., and KoK Technologies Inc. in Penticton, B.C. KoK owner Anvar Buranov has developed a patented process for recovering natural rubber. Wolyn joined the project after Buranov contacted U of G to find a plant breeder. The Guelph professor has bred asparagus since 1988 and developed an awardwinning hybrid that now has almost three-quarters of the Ontario asparagus market. "I thought it was exciting," says Wolyn. "You're taking a wild plant and trying to turn it into a crop."

Most rubber is used for making tires. Natural rubber is better for airplane and heavy-equipment tires than the synthetic oil-derived rubber used in car tires.

The only commercial source of natural rubber, the Brazilian rubber tree, grows mostly in Southeast Asia. After rubber trees were transplanted to Asia, a fungus wiped out most of the South American trees.

Rubber forms naturally in dandelion roots and in parts of other plants. Russian dandelion rubber is chemically suited for use in tires and as latex for gloves, mak-

ing it an ideal replacement for rubber tree products, says Wolyn. Unlike other rubber-bearing plants, this dandelion species also contains inulin, a food additive and feedstock for biofuels that might also benefit growers.

A rubber shortage during the Second World War prompted scientists to study rubber from Canadian-grown plants, including Russian dandelion. They found that the plant grew well in southern Ontario, but they dropped the project after the conflict ended.



Wolyn said the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will release a review of Russian dandelion under invasive species regulations. He said American studies in the 1940s found the plant unlikely to overrun native plants.

Prof. David Wolyn is in the Department of Plant Agriculture and can be reached at 519-824-4120, Ext. 53092 or 56469, dwolyn@uoguelph.ca.

— University of Guelph news release

## Selectus Seed Brand Officially Launched In Spring by Plant Products



**PLANT PRODUCTS CO. LTD.** officially launched its new Selectus brand line of seed products on May 5 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its Brampton, Ontario plant. Guests toured Plant Products' new state-of-the-art blending facility. "With this initiative, Plant Products has be-

come a direct source of seed products from the breeder to our customers," said John Lewandowski, President of the company. "We have worked hard to deliver a quality reliable product for the 2011 season. This product line makes sense both for us and our customers."

Plant Products is a Canadian-based company that has been manufacturing quality water-soluble fertilizers and marketing plant protection products for nearly 70 years. Since its beginnings, the company has continued to expand distribution, and today markets a full range of horticultural products throughout Canada to all horticulture markets, including turf markets. Visit www.PlantProd.com or telephone 1-800-387-2449, 905-793-7000

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## Turf Trades. Online Employment Listings.

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