

—W & T Mailbox—

Perturbed . . . for a moment

After seeing the first few copies of the new *Weeds and Turf*, I was somewhat perturbed by the seemingly casual approach to this type of work. However, your warnings and recent cautions to new applicators are very timely and to the point. You have pointed out some of the hazards of weed control and they should not be taken lightly.

For the past 10 years, a large percentage of our volume has been from weed and grass control for oil and related industries. Our experience with pre-emerge chemicals led us into the field of lawn weed control and for the past two years, we have concentrated on this area. This has had its problems.

Perhaps, Problem No. 1 has been the porosity of the soils that we have to work with. Clay soils seem to give us the most trouble. Sandy soils do not hold the materials well enough to get the proper control. There also seems to be a correlation in the pH of the soils and combinations of different herbicides we have used.

We have had problems in the application of liquid fertilizers. We do not get the quick "bounce" in the grasses that we had expected. We ran some tests on the addition of an iron chelate and that is not complete, but will let you know what our tests prove.

In view of these problems, I would strongly urge that any operator approach this new type of business with extreme caution; a bad job and a ruined lawn will cause a great deal more grief than the monetary benefits will take care of.

I am proud of you for publishing this magazine for us.

Tom Graham

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Weeds and Turf welcomes expressions of opinions from its readers. Send ideas and comments briefly as possible to Charles D. Webb, Editor, Weeds and Turf, 1900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 15, Ohio.

Clear Downed Elm Wood Fast To Halt Dutch Elm Disease

Quick cleanup of branches broken off trees by windstorms, or felled through other means, was urged recently by Iowa State University entomologist, Harold Gunderson.

If downed elm wood isn't cleaned up by the middle of August, Gunderson said, the bark beetles that spread Dutch elm disease will begin laying eggs in the debris. Result will be an increased beetle population for 1963, and more chances for widespread Dutch elm damage.

Gunderson said it is important also that people recognize that no spraying treatment gives 100% protection. In elm trees 60 to 110 feet tall, for example, it's quite possible that at least one crotch won't receive enough insecticide to protect against bark beetle feeding in the spring. And one feeding beetle can infect a healthy tree.

Gunderson said spraying elms under ideal conditions during the dormant season, with a proper mixture of DDT, will give 95-99% protection. Methoxychlor used under similar conditions will give 93-96% protection.

Where elms grow very close together, Gunderson explained, it's

possible for Dutch elm disease to be transmitted through root grafts. When this happens, spraying offers no protection whatever.

Trees infected with Dutch elm disease show in the early stages a yellowing and wilting of leaves on water sprouts along the trunk or on one or more branches at the treetops. Elm leaf beetle larvae feed on the underside of leaves, causing a skeletonizing effect.

Another control recommendation for combatting the ailment comes from David Matthew, Purdue University extension entomologist. He says severe infestations may be controlled by spraying the trees with DDT at 1/2 pint 25% emulsifiable concentrate or 1/4 pound 50% DDT wettable powder per 25 gallons. Lead arsenate may be used at 1 pound, plus 1/4 pint of summer oil, per 25 gallons.

Sol-Kraft Grows, Relocates

Sol-Kraft, Inc., American distributor of West German Solo small engine equipment, is moving into new and larger quarters at 37-41 57th St., Woodside 77, N.Y. New facilities will feature offices, an enlarged stock room, and increased warehouse facilities.

Literature you'll want . . .

Here are the latest government, university and industrial publications of interest to contract applicators. Some can be obtained free of charge, while others are nominally priced. When ordering, include title and catalog number, if any. Sources follow booklet titles.

The Biology and Control of Turf Grubs, Research Bulletin No. 829, 1959, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, 15¢

Improving Athletic Field Turfgrass, Product Use Bulletin No. 2, 24 p. il., West Point Products Corp., West Point, Pa.

Chlorobenzilate to Control Mites on Ornamentals, Technical Bulletin No. 62-1, 8p. il., Geigy Agricultural Chemicals, P.O. Box 430, Yonkers, N.Y.

Diseases and Other Disorders of Turf, Circular 208 (Revised), April 1962, 11 p. il., Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven.

Lawn Diseases and How to Control Them, Home & Garden Bulletin No. 61, 16 p. il., Office of Information, U.S.

Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C., 25¢

Chemical Control of Diseases Affecting Turf on Golf Greens, Processed Series P-422, June 1962, 11 p. il., Oklahoma State University Experiment Station, Stillwater.

Control of Crabgrass and Other Weeds in Turf, Bulletin 649, April 1962, 18 p. il., Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven.

Better Lawns: Establishment; Maintenance; Renovation; Lawn Problems, and Grasses, Home & Garden Bulletin No. 51, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Controlling Insects on Flowers, Catalog No. A 1.75:237, 80 p. il., Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., 40¢

Fall Renovation of Greens and Fairways, Product Use Bulletin No. 3 (Revised), August 1960, 48 p. il., West Point Products Co., West Point, Pa.

Herbicide Recommendations for Common Lawn Weeds, Home & Garden Bulletin No. 59, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.