

Effects of Crabgrass Killers On Earthworms Studied

Chemicals are available to control crabgrass in lawns without affecting the earthworm population in treated areas, according to Dr. John F. Ahrens of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

Depending on uses of lawns, and on preference of the users, reduction of the number of earthworms may or may not be considered desirable, Dr. Ahrens says. Applicators may have to vary their treatments to conform to their customers' desires.

Dr. Ahrens' experiments at the Connecticut station showed Dacthal, a commonly used crabgrass killer, had no apparent effect on earthworms. Zytron, another effective herbicide in crabgrass control, had no appreciable effect on the earthworm population when applied at the rate recommended on the label. When this rate was doubled, earthworms were reduced 52%.

Pax, an arsenical complex, is known to be effective against certain soil insects, including beetle grubs. This compound caused an 89% decrease in earthworms.

Tricalcium arsenate, used for pre-emergence control of crabgrass, also controls beetle grubs, and was responsible for 82% fewer earthworms.

Chlordane, when applied at rates recommended for crabgrass control, reduced earthworm populations by 89%.

Diphenatril, tested in Connecticut for the first time in 1961, had no apparent effect on beetle grubs or earthworms, the scientist reported.

Panogen Fungicide Detailed

Instructions on the use of Panogen turf fungicide, Morton Chemical's new product to fight turf diseases, are now available.

Included on the sheet are dosage recommendations for various turf ailments, antidotes, use precautions, and application methods. For a copy, CAs should write Morton Chemical Co., Soil Pesticides Department, Specialty Products, 110 North Wacker Drive, Chicago 6, Ill. Ask for Bulletin DMI-12.



Sheen X500 flame gun, described by the distributor as a versatile machine which offers new and positive weed control and soil surface sterilization, is now being marketed by the Smrt Import Co., 1105 West Plainfield Rd., LaGrange, Ill. The English-made device features a heavy-duty pump, pressure gauge, and control valve, and can be hand held or operated on a wheeled chassis with a hinged hood. According to Smrt, the Sheen X500 permits continuous use over a large area and provides a steady, completely controllable flame. Applicators may write the company to obtain descriptive literature, prices, and a free booklet on flame gun usage.

New Nomenclature

New common names for several herbicides have been accepted as standard nomenclature by the American Standards Assn. Here are the new substitutes for technical chemical names:

Amitrole is the common name for 3-amino-s-triazole (or 3-amino-1,2,4-triazole).

Atrazine is new generic term for 2-chloro-4-ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-s-triazine.

Chlorazine is simpler than 2-chloro-4,6-bis(diethylamino)-s-triazine.

Simazine is label for 2-chloro-4,6-bis(ethylamino)-s-triazine.

Trietazine stands for 2-chloro-4-diethylamino-6-ethylamino-s-triazine.

Folder Lists Cleary Products

Several Chemicals for control of turf weeds and diseases, especially in golf greens and athletic fields, are described in a new W. A. Cleary Corp. bulletin.

Outlined in the illustrated booklet are Cleary's crabgrass killers, fungicides, and other turf chemicals. For copies, write the firm at New Brunswick, N. J.

More Support for Higher Turf in Control of Lawn Crabgrass

Scientists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station have more evidence that chemicals alone are not always enough to control crabgrass.

Tests at the station farm in Mt. Carmel, with 11 different turf grasses, showed that raising mowing height from 1" to 2" reduced stands of crabgrass from 33 to 12 plants per square foot.

Twelve crabgrass plants to the square foot is still too many to please most homeowners, so chemical control is necessary.

Of the pre-emergence herbicides tested at the station by Dr. John Ahrens, none gave complete control of crabgrass in all situations with no injury to turf grasses. While several were generally satisfactory, and Zytron and Dacthal continue to be the most promising, Dr. Ahrens says.

Good results were also obtained with calcium arsenate, diphenatril, Bandane, and dipropalin. The latter two were used in limited trials.

Some pre-emergence crabgrass killers, particularly Zytron and calcium propyl arsonate, are also effective against crabgrass in its early seedling stages, the experimenters maintain.

A complete report on the Connecticut series of tests is available to contract applicators on request. Write Publications, Box 1106, New Haven 4, Conn., and ask for Bulletin 649.

Chapman Has Herbicide Samples

Two new folders on No-Vine and Weed-Free herbicides, with actual samples of the chemicals attached, are available to CAs from the Chapman Chemical Company.

Both booklets are illustrated and contain condensed use-information. The Weed-Free brochure comes with small samples of both granular and wettable powder formulations. No-Vine is a granular form, and a sample of this chemical is included with the descriptive literature.

For copies, CAs should write Chapman at P.O. Box 3158, Mal-lory Station, Memphis 9, Tenn.