

—W & T Mailbox—

Tip on Scales

In an article in October's *Weeds and Turf* (p. W-26), about the pine needle scale insect, you twice referred to the "female turning to eggs."

I've known for quite a while that eggs turn into females (and males), but this is the first time I've heard of females turning into eggs!

Could you please explain how the female insect turns to eggs?

Fred Schoener

Los Angeles, Calif.

Editor's note: Dr. M. H. Farrier, of the North Carolina State College Entomology Department research division, explained this unusual terminology as follows:

After the pine needle scale reaches the crawler stage, the female moves over the plant until a suitable feeding place is found. Once positioned, the female settles down to suck the sap, never again moving from that position.

As the female attaches her sucking mouthpart to the needle and begins feeding, eggs begin to develop inside her. The insect then secretes wax over itself. After the maximum number of eggs has been developed, the female dies, and her dead carcass and the wax form a protective white crust. During the winter, the eggs remain inside this white crust.

Thus, in a literal sense, the female pine needle scale insect does "turn to eggs."

Industry Needed W&T

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the first issues of *Weeds and Turf*. We have had many favorable comments on your magazine, and it is something that the industry has needed for a long time.

Charlie P. Johnson

Charlie P. Johnson Spray Co., Inc.
Miami, Fla.

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.

Test Fungi For Lawn Chinch Bug Control at Fla. Experiment Sta.

Fungi and wormlike nematodes are being used in experiments in Florida as natural controls for chinch bugs. Already resistant to DDT, chinch bugs are developing resistance to parathion, the University of Florida Experiment Station reported recently.

Dr. Stratton Kerr, assistant entomologist with the Florida station, reports promising results with a fungus tested for lawn chinch bug control.

Dr. Kerr has also found a new St. Augustine grass that seems to have some degree of chinch bug resistance, a recent report from the University of Florida Experiment Station says. Somewhat coarser than some St. Augustine varieties, the grass is claimed to be fairly attractive, and with no appeal to chinch bugs.

CAs interested in obtaining more information about the experiments or the new St. Augustine grass can write to Dr. Kerr at the University of Fla., Gainesville.

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