

Turf Weeds and Pesticide Tests Top Off

Wisconsin Co-op Conference Jan. 8-9

A review session of turf weed control, and insight into the problems of pesticide manufacture from an expert who appeared before the Ribicoff pesticide safety committee hearings, were highlights of the 18th Annual Wisconsin Pesticide Conference with Industry in Madison, January 8-9, at the Park Motor Inn.

The conference is an annual joint venture of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture and Extension Service and the State Department of Agriculture.

"Crabgrass is probably the most serious weed facing Wisconsin homeowners," Robert Newman, extension specialist from the Department of Horticulture, asserted in his talk on "Turf Weed Control." "This pest is the result of poor management, not the cause of poor lawns."

"Once cultural deficiencies, such as low fertility, poor drainage, soil compaction, and improper mowing are corrected, then one can think about applying herbicides to combat the weeds," Newman outlined.

He explained that pre-emergence herbicides have shown the most consistent results for crabgrass control. Tops on the list of recommended materials are Velicol's Bandane, Stauffer's Betasan, Diamond's Dacthal, and Dow's Zytron. A major concern with pre-emergence control chemicals is their effect on bluegrass which is used extensively for Wisconsin lawns. Other chemicals which will eliminate crabgrass but may injure bluegrass turf are calcium arsenate, and Treflan.

Post-emergence chemicals which are in use include the arsenicals, AMA and DMA, and phenylmercuric acetate, but Newman said, "These have never given us as effective control as the pre-emergence materials."

Amines are advised for the control of broadleaved weeds in turf. Silvex amines may damage bentgrass and merion blue, but

control broadleaved weeds which 2,4-D will not. Banvel D amine and 2,4,5-T amine are likewise effective systemic herbicides for broadleaved weed control.

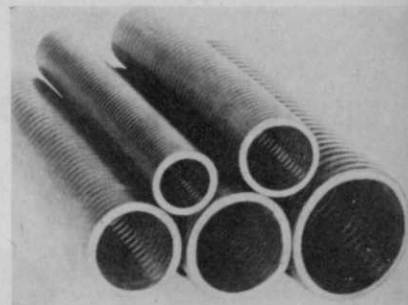
Grassy perennials, such as quackgrass and tall fescue, will not withstand spot treatments of dalapon, amitrol, or cacodylic acid. Spot treatments must be made because no effective selective controls have been developed yet. Areas treated with spot grasskillers have to be reseeded or resodded, Newman concluded.

Dr. John P. Frawley, Toxicologist for the Hercules Powder Company, Wilmington, Del., elaborated on his testimony before the Senate Pesticide Committee hearings on the subject of pre-market development screening and testing. Delegates were impressed by the 2 million dollar figure Hercules spends to research a product such as Delnav, their recent insecticide-miticide. "We prefer to utilize outside consultants for various phases of our program," Dr. Frawley told the group as he outlined the research institutes and universities which have done toxicology research work for Hercules.

"A better system [of evaluation] should and will evolve from increased knowledge and understanding of chemical and biological relationships and not from emotionally motivated or politically compromising legislation," Dr. Frawley concluded.



New lawn and garden hose-end sprayer from Chapin Manufacturing Works, Inc., Batavia, New York, has on-the-spot cleaning, without extra tools. Additional refinements include thumb-action on-off water pressure control above pistol grip and 6 gallon wettable powder or liquid insecticide or fungicide jar.



Poly vinyl chloride hose, with a spiral of rigid vinyl, is strong and durable, and will handle all types of material, wet or dry, according to Vinyloy Hose & Tubing Co., Inc., the manufacturer. Available in lengths up to 325 ft., and in sizes 1", 1 1/4", 1 1/2", and 2" I.D., the hose also comes in two weights, super flexible and heavy duty. Write Vinyloy at 8821 Kenwood Rd., Cincinnati 42, Ohio, for descriptive literature and prices.

Strange Bermudagrass Disease Being Researched at U. of Ark.

A mysterious new turf disease has appeared on Bermudagrass in several southern states and researchers at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, have set about to discover its cause, so reports the extension magazine "Arkansas Farm Research" for Nov.-Dec., 1963.

According to Dr. J. L. Dale, associate plant pathologist, and his graduate assistant, Carlos Diaz, the disease, called "spring dead spot" is not like any other turf disease and has been increasing each year in Arkansas.

Each spring affected lawns show larger dead spots than the year before. During the summer runners of healthy grass partially fill in the dead area, but the Bermudagrass does not reestablish itself in the diseased area. Other grasses instead, such as crabgrass and bluegrass fill the spots and do not appear to be affected.

Most Bermudagrass varieties are affected but the U-3 variety is most severely affected. Strangely, the authors report, Bermudagrass which has received better than average care and maintenance is hit hardest and most often.

The cause of this turf condition is not yet known. So far the researchers have discovered that it does not appear to have any connection with pH, fertility, or organic content of the soil, nor do insects or nematodes appear to enter in as a causative factor.