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WTT Mailbox

"Tree" Is Company, Too

I would like to add my word of praise for the new scope of your publication. It is very helpful to have the three subjects covered in one magazine.

Edward A. Connell

Public Relations Chairman
International Shade Tree Conference

* * *

A bit of praise for you is well in order. I receive your magazine regularly, read it from cover to cover, and enjoy it very much. I think your adding of the word "Trees" to the title was a nice touch.

Noel B. Wysong

Secretary-Treasurer
Midwestern Chapter
International Shade Tree Conference

Dislikes Sodium Arsenite

In your February 1965 issue on page 8 of Tom Mascaro's Guide to Turfgrass Renovation, it says "Sodium arsenite or an equivalent material is applied about one week prior to aerification . . . for a complete renovation program." I must disagree. Sodium arsenite should not be mentioned. Due to its toxic properties, it is a hazard. Paraquat is safe. There's no label for sodium arsenite use as described. Do the job safe and sane.

Donald J. Miller

A-1 Spray Service
Tacoma, Wash.

We agree sodium arsenite is highly toxic and hazardous when handled carelessly, but we must support Mr. Mascaro's statement on its use for renovation. The textbook Turf Management by H. B. Musser says (p. 202): "Sodium arsenite has found its greatest usefulness killing undesirable vegetation preparatory to a complete renovation program. . . . It kills plant tissue with which it comes in contact . . . not effective for eradicating grasses with rhizomes. Species like Kentucky bluegrass, Bermuda, and quackgrass will survive extremely heavy dosages."

Dr. Musser's discussion of golf

course fairway renovation on p. 181 of the same text differs only from author Mascaro's in the addition of detail, and the fact that Dr. Musser prescribes a minimum rate of 40 to 50 lbs. per acre for Poa annua eradication, while Mr. Mascaro states that 35 lbs. per acre is the usual rate.

We must disagree that sodium arsenite has no label for this use. We quote from a specimen label of one formulation of sodium arsenite by the Chipman Chemical Co.: ". . . used for renovation and selective weed control of certain weeds in turf."

In detail the label reads: "When sodium arsenite is recommended for 'scorched earth' treatment, use 5 to 13 gallons of Atlas 'A' in 50 to 100 gallons of water per acre (Atlas 'A' contains 4 lbs. of arsenic trioxide per gallon). Apply in fall at least 14 days before preparing seed bed for reseeding."

To the best of our knowledge, Paraquat is not labelled for renovation of turf. We do know it is labelled for control of winter broadleaf weeds on southern dormant turf only.—Ed.

Well-timed Inquiry

We are interested in knowing the name of the firm that sells a chemical injection for elm trees to prevent Dutch elm disease. Where can we obtain this product?

Don Kamban

Schoenbrunn Evergreen Gardens
New Philadelphia, Ohio

See page 10 for a report on Bidrin, the chemical you mention. This product is sold only to professional tree people who have completed a special training course. Agricultural Chemical Div., Shell Chemical Co., 110 W. 51st St., New York 20, N. Y. can furnish details.—Ed.

Weeds Trees and Turf welcomes expressions of opinions from its readers. Send ideas and comments briefly as possible to James A. Nelson, Editor, Weeds Trees and Turf, 1900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115.