



**Easy way** to test for chinch bugs is to insert metal can, with ends cut off, into soil as indicated. Fill with water. If chinch bugs are present, they will work their way to the top of the water in about five minutes.

times of the year. If severe, all blades and stems are killed, but in most cases, some blades and stems go unharmed. Infested blades of the grass usually remain upright but become brown with a water-soaked appearance.

**Dollarspot.** Diseased areas are usually bleached spots two to three inches in diameter. Lesions can be seen on the leaves of the grass surrounding the bleached spot. The spots may coalesce into larger areas. Dollarspot seems to be most prevalent on zoysiagrass and bermudagrass.

**Pythium.** Pythium primarily attacks bermudagrass. The affected areas are usually in streaks with the individual blades matted together and slimy in appearance. White cottony growth may also be seen on the blade.

**Helminthosporium.** The disease is characterized by an overall thinning of the turf. Lesions on the leaf are purplish to brown. In severe cases the leaves will wilt and die and the sheath may rot. Helminthosporium affects primarily bermudagrass.

**Gray leafspot.** Gray leafspot primarily attacks st. augustinegrass. Lesions occur on the leaves and may be found on the stems. These lesions are oblong with an ash center and a purple to brown margin. The disease is most prevalent during hot, rainy

weather. In severe cases the area may have a scorched appearance.

**Nematode.** Damage is characterized by a slow decline in the turf, a restricted root system and a general thinning of the area. Because the roots are affected, these areas usually become yellowish and wilt easily.

#### Diagnostic Tools Used in Analyzing Lawn Problems

**Soil tube.** A soil tube can be used to take soil samples for making comparisons between good and bad areas in the lawn. Such comparisons may include the effective root depth, the condition of the roots, and the moisture content of the soil. Samples also can indicate compaction, layering, or the presence of mat or buried materials. The tube also can be used to take soil samples to determine the nutritional level and pH of the soil, or for nematode analysis. Soil tubes may be purchased from many garden supply stores.

**Hand lens.** A hand lens is useful for magnifying insects, disease lesions, and nutritional deficiencies. It is handy for examining roots for nematodes and looking at soil particles.

**Metal can.** A metal can with the bottom and top cut out is the best tool to use in determining the presence of chinch bugs in a lawn. The can is pressed into the soil and water is added. Chinch bugs then float to the top.

**Patch test.** The patch test can be utilized to verify the presence of nematodes, insects, and certain nutritional deficiencies. For example, if nematodes are suspected, a very small area can be treated with a nematocide. If the area responds to the treatment, this is a good indication that nematodes are the problem. If worms are thought to be present, an area can be tested with BHC or pyrethrins to bring them to the surface. If a nutritional deficiency seems to be the trouble, small areas can be checked with individual fertilizer nutrients, such as nitrogen or iron. If there is a response to the treatment, your diagnosis is probably correct.



## Meeting Dates

Florida Nurserymen and Growers Assn. Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, May 13-15.

Alabama Nurseryman's Assn. Meeting, Admiral Semmes Hotel, Mobile, June 6-8.

Mississippi Turfgrass Conference, Mississippi State College, State College, June 14-15.

Western Chapter, International Shade Tree Conference Mirimar Hotel, Santa Barbara, Calif., June 20-23.

Massachusetts Nurserymen's Assn. Summer Meeting, Mahoney's Rocky Ledge Nursery, Winchester, Aug. 4.

Louisiana Nurserymen's Assn. Meeting, Municipal Auditorium, Lafayette, Aug. 5-7.

Southern Nurserymen's Assn. Meeting, Golden Triangle Motor Hotel, Norfolk, Va., Aug. 8-10.

Rutgers University Lawn and Utility Turf Field Day, New Brunswick, N. J., Aug. 11.

Rutgers University Golf and Fine Turf Field Day, New Brunswick, N. J., Aug. 12.

Texas Association of Nurserymen, Shamrock Hilton Hotel, Houston, Aug. 15-18.

Midwest Regional Turf Field Days, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., Aug. 16-17.

International Shade Tree Conference 41st Annual Meeting, Washington-Hilton Hotel, Washington, D. C., Aug. 15-19.

Pennsylvania Grassland Council Forage Days, Milton Hershey Farms, Hershey, Aug. 27-28.

Penn State Turfgrass Field Day, on campus, University Park, Pa., Sept. 15-16.

Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Lawn and Ornamentals Field Day, Wooster, Sept. 21-22.

Montana-Wyoming Turf and Nursery Assn. Annual Meeting, Montana State College, Bozeman, Mont., Oct. 4-5.