

In this issue, WEEDS TREES AND TURF begins a new feature with our first Monthly Insect Report. Because we feel there is a need for more grass roots information on the whereabouts of our migrant problem pests, we'll report each month on insects, attacking turfgrasses, trees, and ornamentals throughout the country.

In this mobile society of ours, there are many insects still looking for a home. Consider, for example, the immigrant European chafer (*Amphimallon majalis*), a light-brown beetle, about 1/2 in. long. Chafer larvae feed on turfgrasses, causing the turf to brown and die out. With its airborne, nocturnal mating habit and a bent for traveling by auto, rail, or aircraft, the chafer is spreading.

From New York it has migrated to Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Parts of New York and Connecticut have been placed under quarantine, requiring chafer-free certification for sod, topsoil, gravel, sand, and some plants before they are moved from the area. But the beetle is still looking for a home. This year, it was reported for the first time in two Pennsylvania counties and four New York counties, and the first Massachusetts infestation was observed in the Boston area. Who knows how long it will be before turf managers, golf course superintendents, and CAs in other states encounter the chafer?

Pinpointing the insect won't solve the problem,

of course, but it's the first step. Annually, state and federal agricultural agencies survey the chafer's peregrinations, and this summer, Connecticut set out traps to tip off the growing infestation. Unfortunately, that state's previously effective spraying of infested areas has been terminated because of "pesticide nerves." The beetle is almost sure to spread further.

USDA counsels control of the chafer by the use of soil insecticides. And, it urges a sharp eye for the pest, requesting those who collect suspicious specimens to join the chafer war by sending them to USDA's Plant Pest Control Division. Our point is this: the rapid spread of insect infestations doesn't permit the turfman or treeman to work in a vacuum. Coordinated effort is required in the war on destructive pests, and the first stage is to know and share the knowledge of the insect's home. WTT hopes to contribute to this knowledge with its Monthly Insect Reports (page 30).

WEEDS TREES AND TURF is the national monthly magazine of urban/industrial vegetation maintenance, including turf management, weed and brush control, and tree care. Readers include "contract applicators," arborists, nurserymen, sod growers, and supervisory personnel with highway departments, railways, utilities, golf courses, and similar areas where vegetation must be enhanced or controlled. While the editors welcome contributions by qualified freelance writers, unsolicited manuscripts, unaccompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelopes, cannot be returned.

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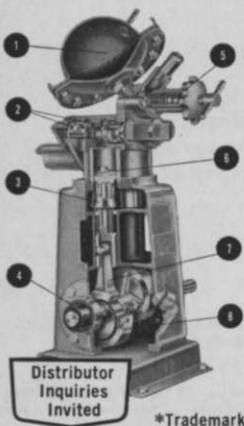
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