

**What To Do About Ground Pearl**

Will you please let me know how to control ground pearl? A great many of the lawns in our city are infested with this insect, and a lot of grass has been killed. But, we have been unable to find any information on these pests or a suitable chemical for their control.

George Madray

Economic Exterminating Co.  
Jesup, Ga.

We did a bit of research into the scale insect, ground pearl, *Margarodes meridionalis*, and found that it has been fairly recently recognized as a cause of serious damage in southern turfs, particularly in centipedegrass and bermudagrass. The "pearl" is a hard shell, about 1/8 in. in diameter, that is secreted by the nymphs, which destroy grasses by feeding on their fine roots. Most control recommendations specify either that the lawn be nursed through the attack, or that grass be replaced with more resistant varieties, or that the soil be sterilized before replanting with seed or noninfested sod. We asked for an expert's opinion on how to control ground pearl and received the following recommendation from Professor Kirby L. Hays of Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.:

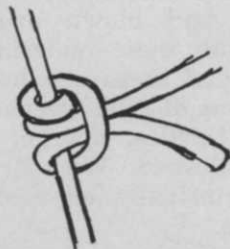
Ground pearl, *Margarodes meridionalis*, is quite a problem in turf management. For several years we have done some research on this problem and recommend the following procedure for control: Apply 1.9 pints of 75% of emulsifiable VC-13 (Nemacide) in 10 to 15 gal. of water per 1,000 sq. ft. of sod, and wet the sod thoroughly after treatment. Do not apply the insecticide when people or animals are present and do not allow the insecticides to drift to other areas where they might injure people or animals. After the insecticide has been applied, do not permit children or pets in the area until the insecticide has been washed into the grass and the grass has dried completely. Persons using this or any other insecticide

should read the label and follow the instructions thereon.

**Doesn't Like Knot**

Sorry, but we feel we must jump on Mr. Bryan again in regard to his article in your August issue, "Safety and the Tree Surgeon." His photo clearly illustrates an improperly made climbers' knot.

The sketch below indicates a properly made knot. This knot must be kept tight in order to



effectively bind when released. The knot will slide only when held in a vertical position.

Congratulations for an excellent article on sycamore anthracnose by Dan Neely. We need more of this kind of specific information.

James W. Taylor

James W. Taylor Tree Surgery  
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**Queries Time Evaluations**

I recently came across the following time evaluations for industrial landscape maintenance operations. I believe the figures were compiled in 1964, and I am wondering just how far they hold true now. Can you tell me if these are good, realistic figures, or can you recommend any other guides?

Here they are with times given as standard minutes for 1,000 sq. ft., potential minutes for 1,000 sq. ft., and number of times performed each week:

**Lawn Operations: Std. Pot. Times**

Mowing	5	3	1
Hand watering	5	3	2
Sprinkler watering	2	1/2	2
Pest Control	10	1	1/4
Weed Control	10	5	1/8

**Shrubs and Ground Covers:**

Weed and prune	60	30	1/4
Pest Control	10	5	1/4

What I assume to be standard times are also given for these operations: fertilizing with 18" hand spreader, 10,000 sq. ft. per hour; light raking, by hand, 2,000 sq. ft. per hour; dethatch raking, by hand, 600 sq. ft. per hour; mowing and edge trim, with 18" hand mower, 7,000 sq. ft. per hour; mowing and edge trim, with 18" power mower, 15,000 sq. ft. per hour; mowing and edge trim, with 25" riding mower and power edger, 40,000 sq. ft. per hour.

(Name withheld on request)

We've checked our files and have been unable to locate time study data on these landscape maintenance operations. WTT therefore invites its readers to send in their comments on the figures. Are they up-to-date and realistic? We'd like to hear from experienced landscape maintenance men what they think.—Ed.

**Sends Beautification News**

William H. Bartles, of W. H. Bartles Tree Service, Hyde Park, New York, sends news of his election to the office of Supervisor of Hyde Park and word of one of his first official acts, formation of a Shade Tree Commission, which is designed to add arboreal attraction to the historic town:

It is our intention to set up a tree planting program with the town highway forces doing the actual planting in the early spring just after the frost is out. We intend to use town-owned property as a small nursery to furnish streetside planting stock. Young sugar maples will be set out and will be transplanted along the streets when they reach 1 1/2 in. diameter. Other species, such as Kwanzan and European linden will be used as well as maple. Trees will be planted bare root in the dormant season, which will work well with the highway department because crews are not too busy. The Shade Tree Commission will also give advice to homeowners on care and maintenance of their properties. We think this should be a big step towards beautification of the town.