

# Insect Report

WTT's compilation of insect problems occurring in turfgrasses, trees, and ornamentals throughout the country.

## Turf Insects

### APHIDS

(*Capitophorus* spp.)  
(*Aphis* spp.)

**Utah:** Extremely numerous on rabbitbrush at Bountiful, Davis County, and Logan Green Canyon, Cache County.

### SUGARCANE BORER

(*Diatraea saccharalis*)

**Florida:** Damage heavy on pampasgrass at Samsula, Volusia County, in early October. Healthy plants reduced from 180,000 to 60,000 in 30-acre field during one year; 50 percent of reduction due to "knocking back" of plumes.

### HAIRY CINCH BUG

(*Blissus hirtus*)

**Pennsylvania:** Some damage to Greene County lawns; adults averaged about 2 per square foot.

### SOUTHERN CINCH BUG

(*Blissus insularis*)

**Texas:** Heavy in lawns in Bastrop, Travis, Guadalupe, Comal, and Bexar Counties week ending October 11.

### VAGABOND CRAMBUS

(*Crambus vulvivagellus*)

**Tennessee:** Moths first collected in light traps September 19 in Knox County; very common around lights.

### A WHITEFLY

(*Aleurocybotus occiduus*)

**Arizona:** Controls in progress in Bermudagrass seed fields at Yuma, Yuma County.

## Insects of Ornamentals

### MEXICAN MEALYBUG

(*Phenacoccus-gossypii*)

**California:** Heavy on pelargonium and fuschia nursery stock in Grass Valley, Nevada County.

### AN ERIOPHYID MITE

(*Eriophyes gardeniella*)

**Florida:** Collected on gardenia in nursery at Monticello, Jefferson County, October 3. This is a new Florida Department of Plant Industry county record.

### A PIT SCALE

(*Cerococcus deklei*)

**Florida:** All stages general and moderate on all 2,275 nursery hibiscus plants at Coral Gables, Dade County.

## Tree Insects

### A CONIFER APHID

(*Cinara pinea*)

**Maryland:** Collected on Scotch pine in nursery at Westminster. Carroll County, May 27, 1968. This is a new State record.

## BLACK TURPENTINE BEETLE

(*Dendroctonus terebrans*)

**Texas:** Outbreak resulted from following in descending order: Logging, lightning, road building, and fire. Outbreaks reported in Houston, Montgomery, Orange, Panola, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Walker Counties. Treated over 1,000 trees and salvaged many others.

## FALL CANKERWORM

(*Alsophila pometaria*)

**North Dakota:** Males and females evident on forest and shade trees in Fargo area, Cass County.

## A CECIDOMYIID MIDGE

(*Cecidomyia* sp.)

**Colorado:** Damage severe on ponderosa pine windbreaks in areas of Yuma, Yuma County, Platner, Washington County, and Rush, El Paso County.

## EUROPEAN PINE SHOOT MOTH

(*Rhyacionia buoliana*)

**Oregon:** Results of fall survey in Umatilla County as follows: Hermiston and vicinity—2,315 trees inspected, 373 infested, 377 suspected; Umatilla—239 trees inspected, 3 infested; McNary Dam—130 infested. Infested mostly Scotch or mugho pines. **Ohio:** Severe damage found on 8-foot red pines in Warren County October 4; infested 30-40 percent of terminals.

## NANTUCKET PINE TIP MOTH

(*Rhyacionia frustrana*)

**Texas:** Extensive damage to shortleaf and loblolly pine saplings in northeast area during summer. Mined nearly all tips over much of 2,000-acre block near Clarksville, Red River County. Heavy infestations and loss of growth on naturally reseeded pine on old fields. Heavy damage also in Gregg, Shelby, and Upshur Counties.

## Dow Chemical Cuts Price of Dowpon Grass Killer

Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich., recently announced a reduction in the price of Dowpon Grass Killer—also known as dalapon, a 2,2-dichloropropionic acid generally applied by air or ground spray equipment.

The price cut, totaling about 27 percent, is the result of production costs due to new technological methods and increased plant capacities, according to Dow.

Plans for additional production efficiencies suggest the possibility of further savings on Dowpon in future years, Dow officials revealed.

## Trimmings

**Gypsy Moth Joy Killer.** Spread of gypsy moth infestation via Christmas trees is an ever present threat on the Eastern Seaboard. Federal and state quarantines are in effect and pretty well thwart spread by commercial trees. But noncommercial movement remains a hazard. Better for all concerned that private individuals be prohibited from moving trees across state lines without a permit. Thousands of shade trees are defoliated annually and many killed by gyp caterpillars. Hunters carrying home souvenir trees need to be made aware that Christmas closely follows the gyp egg-laying season and that a single egg mass contains from 100 to 1000 pests.

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**Aerial Applicator Students.** We read that Vincennes University will start a new aerial applicator training program this fall. Bill Spence of the University reports that the course will cover five semesters and is being offered in cooperation with the National Aerial Applicators Association. This has been one of the goals of the N-Triple-A for some time and points up the value of coordinated efforts through an organized association. Students will get on-the-job training along with classroom work. Primary flight courses and classes will feature the first year of instruction. Students will work in the industry during the summer and then continue formal training until completion of the course. Classes include chemicals and their use along with primary flight training.

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**In the News.** Synthetic grass continues to get rave notices where it is being used for football fields. Most recent we've read are statements regarding the University of Tennessee's Tartan turf, a 3M product. Coaches say the main advantages of the \$200,000 installation are fewer injuries (probably because only quarter-inch cleats are used rather than the 3/4 inch cleats used on regular turf) and the fact that heavy rain does not particularly affect the field.

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**Repels Rabbits.** Elton M. Smith of the Ohio State University reports a liquid formulation of thiram sold as Arasan 42-S has been very effective as a rabbit repellent. It can be brushed or sprayed on trees and plants. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also recommends Z.I.P. for the same purpose. The latter also discourages deer.