

Nutsedge Control Shown In Soil Fumigation Study

Soil fumigation has been an accepted practice for about 20 years among nurserymen who desire healthy ornamental plants that are free of soil-borne diseases and insects.

Now horticultural research workers associated with the University of Maryland at College Park have shown that soil fumigation each fall at sufficient rates and proper soil temperatures also can control yellow nutsedge—a pesky perennial weed—in the following growing season.

Research findings to support this conclusion were formally presented in a technical paper by Dr. C. Edward Beste, extension horticultural weed specialist for the University of Maryland.

His published report represents the finale of a three-year study begun by the late C. Dwain Altman, also an extension horticultural weed specialist, at the University of Maryland's vegetable research farm west of Salisbury.

The Beste-Altman study involved three commercial fumigants, bearing the trade names Vorlex, Telone C

and DD-PIC. It showed that commercially acceptable yellow nutsedge control was obtained with Vorlex at 30 gallons per acre, and with Telone C or DD-PIC at 40 gallons per acre applied in the fall.

Effectiveness of nutsedge control with all three fumigants was reduced measurably as soil temperatures at the six-inch depth fell from 50 degrees F. to 40 degrees F. at the time of fumigation.

Effectiveness of Vorlex in controlling nutsedge, for instance, dropped off from 80 percent to only 20 percent with a 10-degree drop in soil temperature at six inches.

The other two commercial fumigants each showed an effectiveness drop from 80 percent to 60 percent for nutsedge control under identical temperature conditions in the Maryland study.

Since cultural practices for the light soils on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore, along with normal seasonal workloads, dictate that soil fumigation be done in the fall, Dr. Beste concluded that the fumigants should be applied in October. This timing would normally allow at least two weeks with soil temperatures of 50 degrees F. or more at the six-inch depth.

FoamSpray Chemicals, Inc. Buys Ag-Chem Div. Of LTV

Acquisition of the agri-chemical products division of The LTV Corporation by FoamSpray Chemicals, Inc., has been announced jointly by both companies.

Neither company revealed financial details of the transaction. However, C. B. "Bob" Franklin, president of FoamSpray Chemicals, said the company was formed specifically to accommodate the acquisition.

Investors in the company include certain of the former Agri-Chemical employees who now are with FoamSpray Chemicals.

The company produces and markets a patented chemical additive known as FoamSpray which is used with herbicides and insecticides to form a spray mixture for use in all forms of agriculture. Additional products marketed under the FoamSpray trademark include the growth aides OD4 and Microtil and a complete line for Home & Garden.

FoamSpray first was developed by R. L. Wilson Co., Inc., a Houston-based subsidiary of Service Technology Corporation and marketed under the trade name of Wilsco FoamSpray on a nationwide basis.



John F. Cornman has been elected professor of turfgrass management emeritus upon retirement in June from the N.Y. State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University. A specialist in turfgrass management, Cornman has been a faculty member of the college's department of floriculture and ornamental horticulture for 33 years.

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