

For More Details Circle (164) on Reply Card

NEWS (continued)

Turf Fertilizer Supplies O.K. But Prices Higher Than '74

Fertilizer supplies for home lawns, golf courses, and parks should be adequate this spring but higher in price than last year, said a faculty member of the College of Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Donald V. Waddington has studied the situation and reported his findings at the 45th Michigan Turfgrass Conference held recently in East Lansing, Mich.

A check of typical turfgrass fertilizers showed price increases of 60 to 67 percent since last spring and 29 to 35 percent increases since last July, he said.

As an example, a 10-6-4 fertilizer with 25 percent slow-release nitrogen increased from \$130 per ton in the spring of 1974 to \$162 in July, 1974, and then to \$212 by January of this year. Obviously, rising costs for materials and manufacturing are passed along to buyers.

Describing increased costs for two special slow-release nitrogen fertilizers, ureaform and IBDU, Waddington said ureaform prices have increased by about 60 percent in the last two years, while costs for IBDU have doubled. In studying the fertilizer market, Waddington, associate professor of soil science at Penn State, contacted representatives of major turfgrass fertilizer manufacturers and some of the largest distributors in Pennsylvania.

According to one manufacturer, the homeowner who paid about \$8.80 in 1972 to fertilize an average lawn of 8,000 square feet will be faced with \$14.40 for one application of the same material in 1975. Two or three applications a season are generally recommended. Thus, some fertilizer suppliers expect a decline in buying by the average homeowner.

People who buy in large quantities, such as superintendents of golf courses and parks, may not always get the exact fertilizer grade or ration they want and deliveries may be delayed, Waddington said. If delivery is delayed, be prepared to pay the price being asked at delivery

(continued on page 60)

BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS:

Its Properties And Manufacturers

B.t. is a natural bacterium, Bacillus thuringiensis.

When gypsy moths or other caterpillars ingest foliage sprayed with B.t., their digestive mechanisms are disrupted and the pests immediately stop feeding. Death follows from within three hours to three days.

Unlike the organic chemical insecticides, this compound controls only Lepidopterous larvae — the group which includes worms such as gypsy moths, tent caterpillars and inchworm. It is not harmful to desirable insects, animals, fish, humans or plants.

Larvae which have died are not dangerous, either. Tests have shown that birds and other predators readily eat and thrive on sprayed larvae.

B.t. is manufactured as Thuricide by Sandox Wander; as Dipel by Abbott Laboratories, Chicago, Ill.; and as Biotrol XK by Thompson Hayward.



For More Details Circle (169) on Reply Card WEEDS TREES and TURF