

NEWS *continued*

Spring Is the Best Time To Control Bluegrass Billbugs

May is the best time to control adult bluegrass billbugs with an approved insecticide, according to Dr. Dean Kindler, entomologist of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Research Service, Peoria, Ill.

The billbug, a native pest known for 100 years, has only recently increased to damaging numbers. Dr. Kindler told WEEDS TREES &

TURF it has been identified in 30 states east of a line from western South Dakota into Texas, as well as in Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

"Billbug larvae can completely destroy the root system in a patch of grass," he said. "This damage, during dry, hot weather in late June to late August, often is attributed to lack of water, fertilizer burn or disease. Larvae are still feeding on the roots when damage first becomes noticeable. But insecticides applied then do not always give satisfactory larval control. The insecticide becomes chemically tied up in the thatch and does not penetrate the soil deeply enough and with sufficient toxicity for control."

Dr. Kindler's studies in cooperation with the University of Nebraska indicate some bluegrass varieties are more readily damaged than others. The most resistant ones have been Park, Nebraska common, South Dakota certified, Delta, Fylking, Newport and Nu Dwarf. The most susceptible varieties are Warren's A-20, Nugget, Victa, Baron and Sydsport. The billbug prefers Kentucky bluegrass and also infests but seldom seriously damages fescue and perennial rye. For control, Dr. Kindler suggests approved insecticides such as diazinon, dursban or sevin.

He said the adult bluegrass billbug overwinters on the soil surface in protected spots such as under trees or bushes. Adults become active about April, depending on temperature. From late May into July, the females lay eggs in holes they have chewed in grass stems near the plant's crown. Larvae hatched from the eggs feed initially on stems, then move to the roots and cut them off.

Ask the Lawn Expert Book Published by Paul Voykin

Paul N. Voykin, superintendent at Briarwood Country Club, Deerfield, Ill., has written his second book entitled *Ask the Lawn Expert*, published by Macmillan Publishing Co., 866 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Voykin tells how to choose and care for a perfect lawn for almost any use and climate. Written largely in question-and-answer format, the book deals with actual queries Voykin received in response to his writing and lecturing and radio and television appearances. He tells how to plant or restore home lawns, how to control insects and weeds and the best way to fertilize, water and mow.

NAA Management Seminar Set Next Month in Chicago

The National Arborist Association will host its first management seminar June 15-16 at the O'Hare Hilton in Chicago. Budgeting, accounts receivable, cash flow and cost analysis will be emphasized.

For further information, contact Robert Felix at association offices at 3537 Stratford Rd., Wantagh, N.Y.

Pesticide Training Movie Available from Arborists

Pesticides — Play It Safe, a movie designed to help train workers using pesticides, is available from the National Arborist Association.

The film reminds workers of the hazards of pesticides, and is available for rent at \$25. For further information, contact Robert Felix at NAA headquarters at 3537 Stratford Rd., Wantagh, N.Y. 11793.

J-M's Ag-Turf Division Expands Irrigation Line

Johns-Manville's Ag-Turf Division has expanded its irrigation systems line to include Greenlawn Sprinkler Company products for lawn and garden applications.

The plastic sprinkler equipment manufactured by Greenlawn will complement Johns-Manville's line of brass products. Included among the Greenlawn products are plastic pop-up spray heads, a plastic valve line and accessories.

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