

# VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

By Roger Funk, Ph.D., Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio

**Q:** Does wiltproofing help evergreens survive the winter?

**A:** The use of an antitranspirant will decrease the amount of water lost through the foliage and help prevent winter desiccation. Unfortunately, in extremely cold or windy conditions the margin of safety provided by an antitranspirant application may not be sufficient to noticeably increase protection. Test the materials to determine their effectiveness in your particular situation.

**Q:** Recently I became grounds superintendent for a county shrine and wildlife sanctuary. By all appearances, the biggest challenge will be how to rid, if possible, its 130 acres of Japanese honeysuckle. A third of the property is in wooded trails, the rest in lawns, buildings and fields.

The aggressive semi-evergreen vine has smothered beds of native wildflowers, discouraged the development of native trees and shrubs, and shrouded many established border plantings. It's even found in open fields where mowers can't get low enough to cut it.

*I've heard it will eventually cycle itself out; maybe so, but by then there will be no other ground cover left to take its place.*

*My question is, how best to control or get rid of the weed?*

**A:** Some Amitrole formulations are labeled for honeysuckle control as foliage sprays. Check the product's label for specific information on timing, rate of application and precautions.

**Q:** Can I store my liquid pesticides in an unheated warehouse if the temperatures get below freezing?

**A:** Although heated storage is preferred for pesticides, some can be subjected to freezing temperatures and retain their effectiveness.

Discoloration, settling or crystal formation does not necessarily mean that the material has been chemically altered unless it cannot be returned to its normal state with agitation. Contact the manufacturer(s) for specific recommendations for each pesticide.

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