

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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

Q: We would like some information on Devrinol by Stauffer Chemical Company and growth retardants for ivy.

A: Devrinol (common name, napropamide) is a selective herbicide with an acute oral LD₅₀ greater than 5000 mg/kg. Devrinol, available as an emulsifiable concentrate (2-E), a wettable powder (50%) and as 10% granules, is labeled for the control of several grass and broadleaf weeds in orchards and vineyards. It is also effective for weed control in direct seeded tomatoes, strawberries, tobacco, and certain other crops. Read the label and check with your local extension agent for specific instructions in your area.

Q: Much has been written about insecticides and chinch bug controls. What are the procedures for repairing the damaged turf areas, basically on home lawns?

A: The simplest method of renovation would be to verticut the damaged area and seed with a compatible mixture or blend. The soil should be moist (but not wet) and verticutter adjusted to cut into the soil about 1/4 inch in order to provide the proper seed bed.

Q: I would like to know if there are any new methods to kill moles. Is chlordane still used?

A: I do not know of any new materials or methods to control or kill moles.

Chlordane was used to eliminate grubs, a primary food source for moles, but chlordane is no longer labeled for use on turf. Diazinon, Dursban and Proxol are currently labeled for grubs, but the timing of application is more critical than with chlordane because of the shorter residuals. Also, elimination of grubs is no guarantee that the moles will go away.

Other standard methods of mole control are traps, poison baits or fumigation. The most effective method probably is the use of the harpoon or choker traps. To find actively inhabited tunnels, raised sod should be rolled or trampled down. If the tunnels are raised the next day, a trap should be set in that place. Traps which are not "tripped" should be reset in another place daily. Gases have proven ineffective since gas will diffuse out of the tunnel through the thin layer of sod overhead. Poisoned baits are generally ignored by moles.

Q: Because of very hard water from our own well, the trees at our golf course become coated with a

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