

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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

Q: Could you please recommend some evergreen trees or medium-to-tall evergreen shrubs that can be used as a screen and will tolerate shady conditions (Mid-Atlantic region)?

A: All species of hemlock (*Tsuga*) will withstand shade although they grow best in full sunlight. Hemlocks can be pruned to form a very dense hedge and will eventually reach 75' to 90' if left unpruned.

American arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) is almost columnar in growth habit and grows best in moist woods near water. Arborvitae has the undesirable habit of turning brownish in the winter and will grow to 60' at maturity.

Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) will grow to 8 feet and grows best in wet, acid soil. It grows well in dense shade.

Rhododendron, *pieris* and *kalmia* will exceed 8 feet in height and form a loose screening effect. All of these species grow best in well-drained, acid soils and will tolerate fairly dense shade.

Q: We have a large euonymus that is covered with a small white scale. The leaves are beginning to "roll" and the twigs are dying back. What chemical will control this and when should we spray?

A: I can't positively identify the scale without inspection but it is probably euonymus scale. Heavy infestations usually require both a dormant and a late spring-early summer spray.

In your area (Pennsylvania) apply dormant oil plus ethion in late March or early April, and spray malathion, Sevin or cygon in early June.

Check the labels and the local extension service for detailed instructions.

Q: This spring our apple orchard was severely infected with what I was told was fire blight. I don't remember having this problem before. Could you tell me how to control it?

A: Fire blight is a bacterial disease and was more prevalent this year than in previous years in your

Continues on page 46



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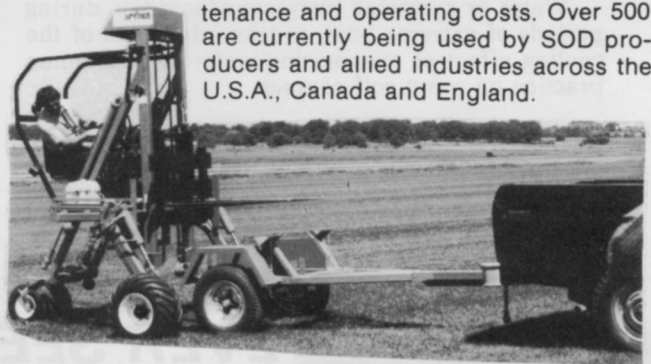


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Vegetation Management *from page 45*

area (Midwest). The bacteria overwinter in the stem cankers and are spread in the spring by wind and by bees and other insects which carry the organism from tree to tree while gathering nectar from the blossoms.

Prune out the infected branches below the cankers before spring, and spray with the antibiotic Agri-Strep at blossom time. Zineb is also recommended in some states. Always follow label recommendations. Heavy fertilization has been reported to increase susceptibility to fire blight.

Q: If dandelions are sprayed with 2,4-D at the time of seeding, will the seed be sterilized? Also, would 2,4-D in combination with dicamba and MCPP be effective in this way?

A: The 2,4-D will not injure the seed itself. When the seeds germinate, sufficient 2,4-D will be present near the soil surface to severely injure or kill the seedlings. Application of 2,4-D should be delayed for six weeks after seeding or until the lawn has been mowed twice.

Q: Is it better to water turf in day or night? Exactly how much damage would be caused by watering at the wrong time?

A: Irrigation during the early morning or evening hours allows for the most efficient utilization of water by turfgrass plants since less water is lost through sun-induced evaporation. Evening watering, however, can increase the potential for disease by providing the moist conditions necessary for the growth and development of fungus throughout the night.

Contrary to popular opinion, watering turfgrass in the afternoon while the sun is shining does not cause scorch except under unusual circumstances.

Water or syringing turfgrass at midday, during periods of extreme heat, to take advantage of the cooling effect of evaporating water, is a common practice on some golf courses.

Q: Can Di-Syston be used for leaf miner control on birch trees when apple trees are nearby?

A: The proximity of the fruit tree to the birch tree and the chance of intermingling of the root systems

of the different kinds of trees would determine whether Di-Syston should be used. If there is any chance of intermingling of roots, Di-Syston should not be applied.

The Di-Syston label specifically states that it should not be applied to trees that will bear fruit during the current crop year. Another systemic, Dimethoate (Cygon), is labeled for birch leaf miner control and can be used on apple trees up to 28 days prior to harvest.

Q: During the hot summer months, sometimes as early as June 15, some lawns will dry and go dormant. Is it possible, through watering and other cultural practices, to rejuvenate this turf during the following summer months?

A: Cool season turfgrass plants typically turn brown in the summer unless supplemental water is applied during periods of heat and/or drought. However, unless the crown area is injured, the plant usually is not permanently affected. The crown is the only truly perennial part of a turfgrass plant; the tillers and roots undergo constant renewal as the oldest tissues die and are replaced.

Increasing the cutting height during the summer months will help protect the crown from excessive heat and drying. Unless prolonged drought has occurred, the turfgrass should revive with the cool temperatures and increased moisture in the fall.

If not, you should inspect the turfgrass for some other problem such as insects or disease.

Reader comment — In response to the June 1979 "Vegetative Management" column, one of the readers has suggested a means of eliminating the problem of "messy" crabapples. She suggests that you consider planting 'Spring Snow' which has beautiful blossoms but no fruit. She indicated that it was rated in the best category in the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Check with your local cooperative extension service or a reputable nurseryman for its evaluation in your area. — Thanks!



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