

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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

Q: What causes gummosis?

A: Trunk, limbs, and twigs of certain trees (particularly stone fruits) exude gummy sap when injured by mechanical agents, insect punctures, or diseases. Some species are susceptible to a bacterial canker that also causes exudation of sap.

Q: What would you suggest for the control of yellow nutsedge that will not injure lawns? Last year we tried MSMA but were not satisfied with the results.

A: The methanearsonates such as MSMA (monosodium methanearsonate) usually give good control when applied properly. We had excellent results with Bentazon (Basagran) last year with no noticeable injury to Kentucky bluegrass.

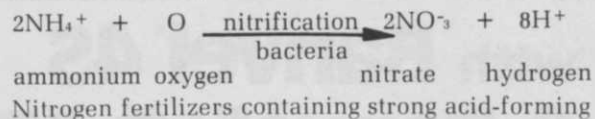
Q: I used glyphosate (4 ozs. to 1 gal.) on Bermudagrass in trailing gazanias. The glyphosate killed the Bermudagrass but not the gazanias. The trailing gazanias are still living after six months. Why?

A: Gazania is not on the glyphosate label. I called Monsanto, basic producers of glyphosate and was

told that they have no information for its control. In general, the glyphosate has not been absorbed into plants that show no injury symptoms, and the chemical has not translocated properly in plants that show initial injury and then recover. Glyphosate is absorbed only through green tissue and since gazania is a relatively tender herbaceous plant you should have gotten control unless you did not get adequate coverage over the leaf surface.

Q: Why do nitrogen fertilizers increase soil acidity?

A: Soil is acidic because of the presence of hydrogen ions H⁺ and any material which releases or causes the release of hydrogen ions increases the acidity. During the nitrification process, hydrogen ions are released when the ammonium ion is converted to nitrate. Therefore, any nitrogen fertilizer containing or forming ammonium will increase soil acidity.



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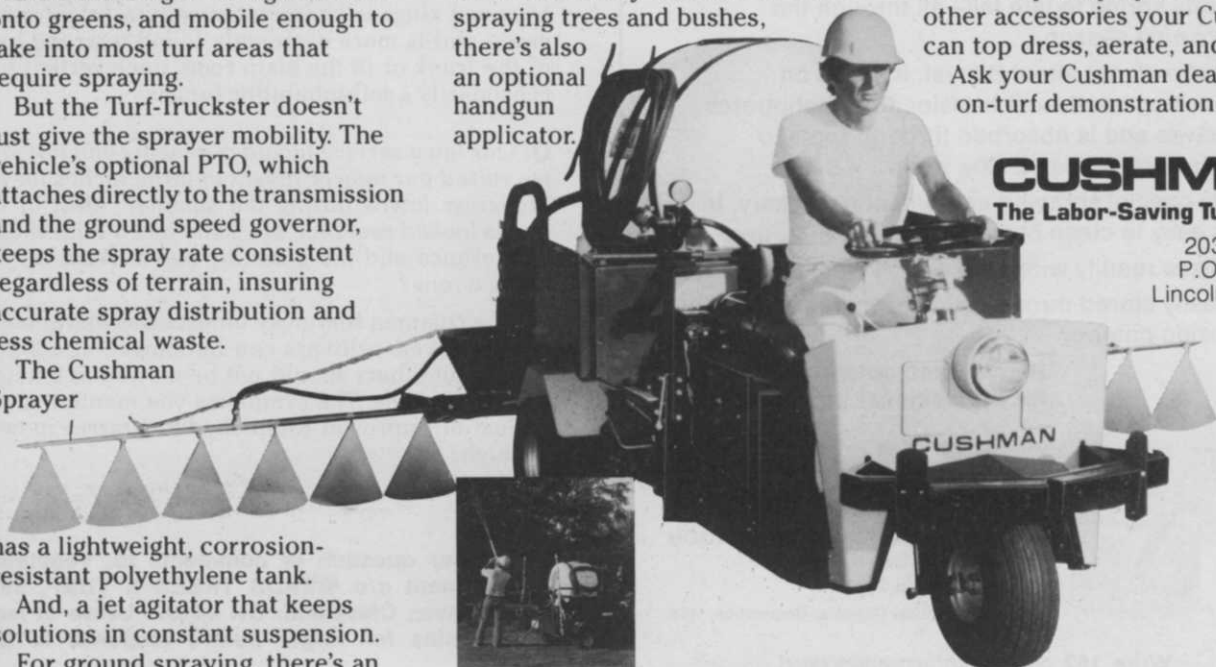
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