

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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

Q: What is the latest information on the control of *Cytospora* canker in blue spruce?

A: *Cytospora* canker is caused by the fungus *Cytospora Kunzei* and is most often associated with older and/or weakened trees. Improving tree vigor has been and still is the recommended treatment. This includes proper fertilization, watering, soil improvement and pruning. Pruning tools should be sterilized to minimize the potential for spreading the disease, and pruning should never be done during wet weather.

Q: Where can I get a list of crabapples resistant to scab and fire blight?

A: Write to Dr. L. P. Nichols, Pennsylvania State University, 211 Buckhout Laboratory, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802.

Q: What causes gummosis on cherry trees?

A: Gummosis is simply the oozing of sap (including gum and latex) from a wound or other opening in the bark. It often results from borer infestations.

Q: I have been reading about the adverse effect an alkaline pH has on pesticide solutions. Are there any products on the market that can be used to adjust the pH?

A: Sorba-Spray, produced by Leffingwell Chemical Company in Brea, California, and Spray-Aide, produced by Miller Chemical and Fertilizer Corporation in Hanover, Pennsylvania, will lower the pH of tank mixes.

Q: I know that the presence of certain weeds in a lawn can be used to diagnose soil problems. Can you tell me what these weeds are and the related soil condition?

A: Most weeds can grow under a wide variety of soil and environmental conditions but certain weeds may become dominant under adverse conditions because of their tolerance. For example, moss will grow in almost any soil in either shade or full sun. However, it is usually associated with excess moisture, shade and acid soils because it is tolerant of these conditions, and thus, more competitive. Such plants are known as indicator weeds because their presence indicates — but does not assure — certain growing conditions.

I have listed the most common indicator weeds for your area (Northeast) and the condition(s) under which they may dominate. You should test the soil for confirmation.

Send your questions or comments to: Vegetation Management c/o WEEDS TREES & TURF, 757 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Leave at least two months for Roger Funk's response in this column.

Indicator Weed	SOIL CONDITIONS						
	Infertile	Moist	Dry	Acid	Compaction	Sandy	SHADE
annual bluegrass (<i>Poa annua</i>)		•			•		•
common chickweed (<i>Stellaria media</i>)		•					
cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla simplex</i>)	•						
ground ivy (<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>)							•
heal-all (<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>)		•					•
carpetweed (<i>Mollugo verticillata</i>)	•		•	•			
knotweed (<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>)					•		
moss (<i>Bryum, Ceratodon, Hypnum</i> or <i>Polytrichum</i> spp.)		•					•
orange hawkweed (<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>)	•			•			
oxeye daisy (<i>Chrysanthemum</i> <i>leucanthemum</i>)	•			•			
povertygrass (<i>Danthonia spicata</i>)	•						
rabbitfoot clover (<i>Trifolium arvense</i>)			•			•	
rough bluegrass (<i>Poa trivialis</i>)		•					•
sandbur (<i>Cenchrus pauciflorus</i>)	•		•			•	
sheep sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>)	•		•	•			
smartweed <i>Polygonum persicaria</i>)		•					
thyme-leaved sandwort (<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>)			•			•	
trailing stonecrop (<i>Sedum sarmentosum</i>)		•					
violets (<i>Viola</i> spp.)		•					•
yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)	•		•				