

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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

Q: Can you suggest some disease-free trees to be used in landscaping my property?

A: The following list of relatively disease-free plants can be used as a general guideline. I suggest that you contact your local extension specialist for further information concerning the adaptation of these plants in your geographic location. Also check availability at your local nurseries. (Ohio)

Common Name	Scientific Name
<i>Common Genera</i>	
Amur Corktree	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus grandiflora</i> and <i>F. sylvatica</i>
Corktree	<i>Phellodendron</i> sp.
Cucumbertree	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus officianalis</i> and <i>C. mas</i>
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Honeylocust, Thornless	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i> sp.
Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Magnolia	<i>Magnolia</i> sp.
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
Sorreltree or Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
<i>Unusual Genera</i>	
American Smoketree	<i>Cotinus americanus</i>
Dovetree	<i>Davidia involucrata</i>
Eucommia	<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>
Franklinia	<i>Franklinia alatamaha</i>
Goldenchain	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>
Goldenrain	<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>
Kalopanax	<i>Kalopanax pictus</i>
Katsuratree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> sp.
Laburnum	<i>Laburnum</i> sp.
Parrotia	<i>Parrotia persica</i>
Russianolive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Smoketree, American	<i>Cotinus americanus</i>
Sophora	<i>Sophora japonica</i>
Stewartia	<i>Stewartia</i> sp.
Snowbell	<i>Styrax</i> sp.
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum</i> sp.
Yellowwood	<i>Celastrus lutea</i>
<i>Evergreens</i>	
Atlas Cedar	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>
Baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Cedar of Lebanon	<i>Cedrus libani</i>
Golden Larch	<i>seudolarix amabilis</i>
Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i> and <i>L. eurolepis</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniper</i> sp.
Umbrella Pine	<i>Sciadopitys verticillata</i>
Yews	<i>Taxus</i> sp.
<i>Hedge</i>	
Bayberry	<i>Myrica</i> sp.
Glossy Privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus davurica</i> and <i>R. frangula</i>

Q: In recent years we have had greenbug aphid problems in lawns. I would appreciate receiving your comments concerning their biology and control. (Ohio)

A: The greenbug aphid, *Schizaphis graminum* (Rondani), is a small, green soft-bodied plant louse which sucks juices from grass leaves.

Turfgrass is damaged in several ways by the greenbug which feeds on phloem sap with its piercing-sucking mouth parts, seriously weakening the plant. A secretion of salivary phytotoxin is injected into the plant, resulting in yellow and orange spots on the foliage. It is thought the toxin moves within the plant and weakens the root system. Infested areas are somewhat circular, with grass turning yellow and dying, often in shaded areas of large trees, although the problem is also found in open, sunny areas. Turfgrass may be damaged so severely that replacement is necessary.

The greenbug female - they do not need to mate - lays eggs in September and, after hatching, the insect population can build up very quickly to as many as 5000 per square foot. The insect can be either winged or wingless. The winged form allows the aphid to migrate to other lawns.

Dursban, diazinon or malathion are usually effective, but resistance to Dursban has been demonstrated. Another organophosphate, Orthene, has a special need label in Ohio, Kansas and Indiana. Because of the demonstrated ability to develop resistance to organophosphate insecticides, greenbugs are best controlled by alternating with a carbamate insecticide.

Q: I have problems with sandburs in turf and ornamental plantings. I have used Balan and Dacthal with poor results. Timing has been prior to crabgrass germination. Suppliers continue to say that either should work. Can you help? (Minnesota)

A: Balan is not recommended for sandbur control, and only moderate control can be obtained with a very high rate of Dacthal, which explains the reasons for the poor results you experienced. Sandbur in turf can be controlled best by the use of postemergent herbicides such as AMA, DSMA or MSMA. Apply when weeds are small and actively growing. For best results the herbicides should cover the foliage adequately. Repeat applications may be necessary if regrowth occurs.

Depending upon the ornamentals involved, sandbur can be controlled with glyphosate (Roundup) sprayed onto the foliage or by direct application with a rope wick.

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