

## PROBLEM SOLVERS

By Balakrishna Rao, Ph.D.

**Q:** *I would appreciate it if you would furnish names of flowering plants which have a fragrance. We are interested in using these in landscape design. Please also mention some books or references on this subject. (Ohio)*

**A:** Your idea of including fragrant flowers with plants is very creative. Because of the space limitations, I will furnish the following reference sources which you might find interesting and helpful in your line of work.

1. *Plants for Fragrance*, Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Service, Publication No. L-243.
2. *Flowering Shrubs for Fragrance*, Morton Arboretum, Bulletin for Popular Information, Volume 13, No. 7, July 1938.
3. *Shrubs and Vines for American Gardens*, Donald Wyman, MacMillan Publishing Company, Inc., New York 10022.

**Q:** *Whom should we contact in case of a pesticide spill? (West Virginia)*

**A:** Pesticide spills or leaks should be handled effectively and promptly. In case of a pesticide spill, you can call several numbers for guidelines on clean up and decontamination.

You should notify the state department of agriculture for your particular state of any pesticide spills or leaks. In your case, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (304-348-2213) should be notified.

In addition, you should also notify the following agencies, depending upon the problem.

1. National Response Center (NRC) (800) 424-8802 - The NRC should be notified if a pesticide spill or accident occurs on a highway. They will in turn notify the proper authorities.
2. CHEMTREC (Chemical Transportation Emergency Center) and National Agricultural Chemicals Association (NACA) (800) 424-9300 - The CHEMTREC consultation team can assist you in providing identification of chemicals, safety guidelines, and manufacturer's emergency phone numbers. The NACA can give you technical advice on pesticides and telephone numbers of manufacturers. If clean up is needed, NACA can assist in getting in touch with the people who are equipped to clean up pesticides spills.

Keep these important numbers in easily accessible places and also in the pesticide spray truck for any emergency situation.

**Q:** *This spring we treated a number of lawns with Roundup for renovation. About mid-May when we visited the lawns for seeding we found a lot of broadleaf weeds. I am surprised by the results and so are the upset clients. Please help me—what might I have done wrong? (Michigan)*

**A:** From your statement I assume that your Roundup treatment took care of all the turfgrass in the lawn. Even though this is frustrating, the broadleaf weed

problem you are experiencing in Roundup-treated lawns has also been experienced by others. The following explanation might help you to better understand the situation.

I feel that your Roundup treatment worked well enough and it killed everything that was "green" in the lawn at the time of application. However, the weeds germinated later on and now present a problem. Recognize the fact that Roundup should kill all of the green vegetation in the lawn when contacted by direct spraying. It will break down in the soil and thus it does not have preemergent activity on ungerminated seeds or unaffected underground plant parts. Another explanation is that you might have accidentally missed a few areas. In that case, you should also see unaffected turfgrass along with weeds.

**Q:** *I have read that large tree limbs fall off or are spontaneously shed when the temperature is extremely hot. Is this true? (California)*

**A:** In checking literature, I have found that this can happen. Dr. R. Harris, of the University of California, has been collecting information on this phenomenon for years.

"High temperature limb breakage" or "summer branch drop" are terms used to describe the situation where apparently sound branches fail when it is hot and humid. Overmature and senescent trees are more susceptible to this condition than young, vigorously-growing trees of the same species. Oak, elm, pine, London plane, poplar and willow are some of the species involved. Limbs that fall are usually large in diameter, long and horizontal to the ground. The break occurs out on the limb rather than at the crotch.

Why limbs break or shed under the conditions you describe is not known. Shortening large scaffold limbs which hang over buildings or pedestrian areas is suggested.

**Q:** *Some of our clients have shaded lawns with poor turfgrass growth. Annual bluegrass is presenting a serious problem in these situations and we are interested in seeding the areas with shade-tolerant mixes. Our clients want a GUARANTEE on annual bluegrass control. Is there any preemergent material which can be used to control annual bluegrass? (Pennsylvania)*

**A:** The problem you are dealing with (established annual bluegrass under a shaded environment) is a difficult one. Make sure you prepare good seed beds and seed the area with shade-tolerant, aggressive cultivars. Follow good establishment procedures and cultural practices to discourage annual bluegrass from establishing from seed. Reducing the amount of shade should favor the growth of desirable grasses.

I think your clients are asking too much in wanting a guarantee on control of annual bluegrass. Because of the shade environment and the history of

annual bluegrass in the lawn, it would present a problem in the future and, thus, it would be difficult to give any guarantee on the job.

There is no herbicide on the market that will provide satisfactory control of annual bluegrass in lawns. Preemergent herbicides will help to prevent new seedlings from growing but will not kill established plants. Annual bluegrass is a short-lived plant which usually begins growth in late summer or early fall from seed. Application for annual bluegrass control should be made in late summer and spring. Follow the directions on the label for application rates.

Advise the client not to expect complete elimination of annual bluegrass with herbicides alone. Emphasize the importance of maintaining good cultural practices to help manage the problem.



**Balakrishna Rao is plant pathologist for Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, OH.**

Questions should be mailed to Problem Solver, Weeds Trees & Turf, 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130. Please allow 2-3 months for an answer to appear in the magazine.



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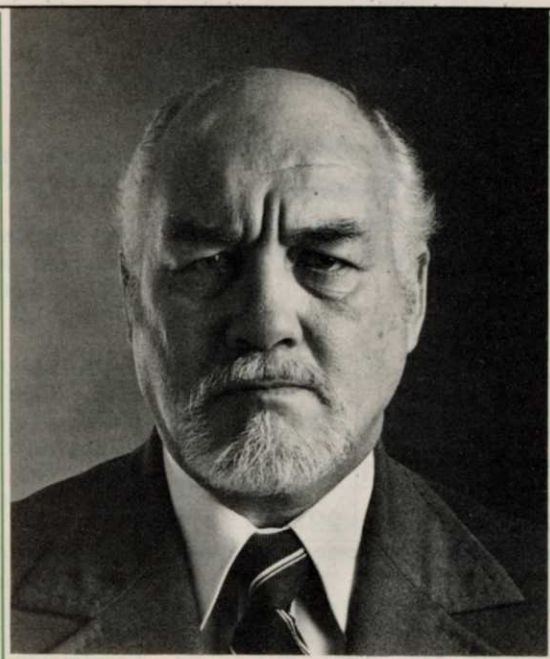
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