

Insects and diseases attack in June

As work schedules fall into place in June, insects and diseases begin their attack on the landscape. Although a great deal about insects and diseases is predictable, the landscape manager is never certain when and where they will strike and to what degree of severity.

Entomologists and agronomists have a foothold on a computer modelling system to anticipate severe outbreaks of these pests. Perhaps by 1990 scientists will be able to project damage, and landscape managers can plan accordingly. Until they accomplish this, planning for insects and diseases is like planning a picnic in April.

To assist you in the fight, *Weeds Trees & Turf* publishes the Insect Control Guide in this issue and the Disease Control Guide in the May issue.

Insect control

June is the peak hatch for many turf insects; including chinchbugs, mole crickets and turfgrass *Ataenius*. Cutworm larvae are now large enough to cause visible damage. Billbug larvae feed on grass stems in June. Grubs have stopped feeding and burrow into the soil to pupate.

Oftanol applied now will help control billbug and chinchbug larvae and grubs as late as August. If residual is not important or desirable, control of larvae is possible with diazinon, Turcam, or Proxol, followed by irrigation.

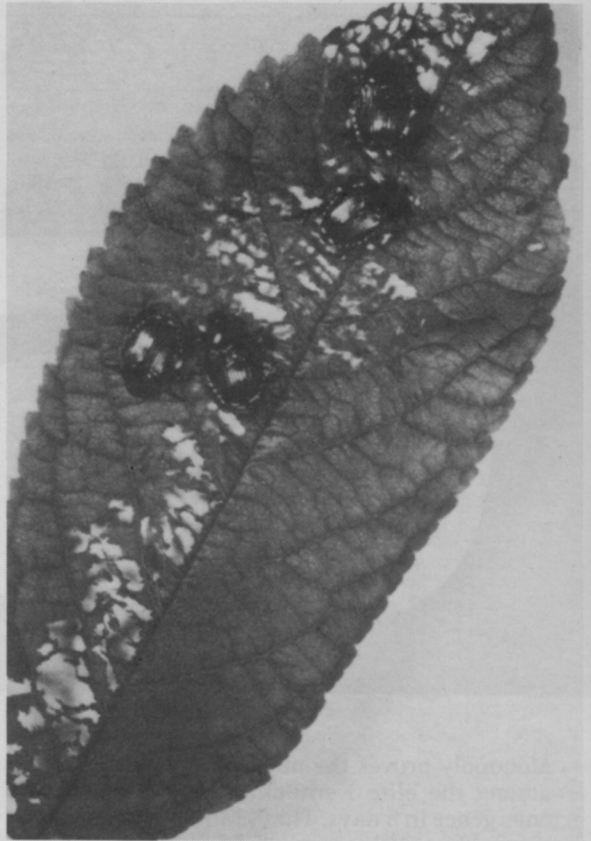
Mole cricket control is a choice of sprays in early June and baits in late June. Sprays of MoCap, Sarolex, or Baygon, should be watered in. Baits of Baygon, malathion, or Sevin should not be watered in.

Cutworm infestations can be treated with Dursban, Proxol, Aspon, Sevin and others.

Tree and ornamental insects active in June include scale crawlers, mites, black vine weevil, June beetle, Japanese beetle, bagworm, and borers.

If scales were evident on foliage, stems, or bark in the spring, now is a good time to catch them in their most vulnerable stage, the crawler stage. These scales include Lecanium scale, cottony maple scale, *Euonymus* scale, pine tortoise scale and golden oak scale. Sprays of malathion, Diazinon, Turcam or Orthene in June are effective.

Spider mite, honey locust mite, spruce mite, and others cause visible damage to ornamentals in June. General use insecticides are not effective against



June means the beginning of Japanese beetle feeding on landscape foliage.

mites. Miticides include Dicofol (Kelthane), Vendex, Plictran, and dymet.

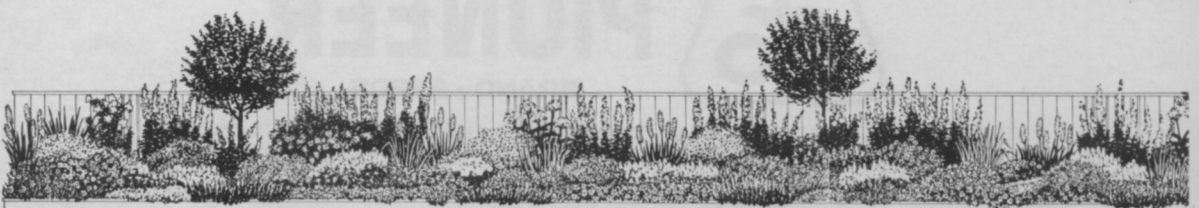
Black vine weevil continues to increase its damage to yews. The June beetle is causing severe tree defoliation in some areas. Research has shown that major infestations of June beetle are predictable due to the insect's three-year cycle. Orthene and Turcam are effective on these two insects.

Japanese beetles become adults in summer and ravenously consume foliage. Periodic sprays of Sevin, Turcam, methoxychlor, and Diazinon are needed to contain large infestations.

Bagworms on narrow-leaf evergreens should be caught when still young in early June with applications of Sevin, Diazinon, Malathion, Orthene, meth-

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Landscape Log is written based on previous publications by Dow Gardens Horticulturist Douglas Chapman, the Weed Control Guide from March 1983, and TECH SPECS from August 1983.



oxychlor, or Turcam. Borers should be watched, especially on birch, in June. If D-shaped holes are visible on the bark, apply Dursban or other recommended pesticides.

Disease control

To the manager of high-maintenance turf, June is a time to apply preventative materials to problem spots and to keep on top of other susceptible areas. The prime environmental causes of disease should be corrected, including poor drainage, dew, stagnant air, and timing of irrigation.

Since the primary crabgrass germination period is over and preemergence herbicides have completed their usefulness, early June is a good time to aerify disease-prone turf areas.

Michigan State University Pathologist Joe Vargas is now recommending brief daily irrigation (mid-day) to protect beneficial organisms in the thatch and soil, instead of waiting for wilt symptoms before irrigating. Excessive water is a prime cause of turf disease.

The prime summer troublemakers for northern turf managers are Dollar Spot, Brown Patch, Pythium, Fusarium and Anthracnose.

Dollar spot is caused by two fungi and can damage creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass when temperatures are from 60 to 85 degrees F. Brown patch is a disease of highly-fertilized, cool-season turf during hot, humid days. Cultural controls include limiting nitrogen to one-half pound per thousand square feet per month. Anthracnose attacks mainly annual bluegrass, but also Seaside creeping bent, some fine-

leaf fescues and perennial ryegrasses. Coring reduces anthracnose by encouraging deep rooting and better drainage.

Fusarium blight is a disease of cool-season turf beginning in late June. The frog-eye symptom is now thought to be caused by a combination of three different fungi (Smiley, Cornell). Preventative Fusarium control, such as with Bayleton, should be applied before symptoms appear, no later than mid-June. Pythium may be the worst cool-season turf disease since it kills the entire plant, not just foliage. Moderating fertilization and improving drainage are chief cultural controls.

The prime warm-season turf diseases are Brown Patch, Helminthosporium leaf spot and gray leaf spot. Brown patch is most common on thatchy St. Augustine and zoysia when days are warm and nights are cool. It can also attack bermudagrass and ryegrass. Helminthosporium leaf spot (melting out) is discovered on bermudagrass, ryegrass, and to a lesser extent centipede and St. Augustine, when temperatures range from 70 to 95 degrees F. Gray leaf spot is a problem of St. Augustine in warm, humid weather.

Specific chemical controls will be given in the June Disease Control Guide.

Ornamental diseases, especially on roses, dogwood, azalea, rhododendron, hawthorne, and fruit trees, should be monitored. Problem plants will require treatment every two weeks through the summer. See June Disease Control Guide for details.

Trimming evergreens

Trimming narrow-leaf evergreens can be done in June and July. Up to half of new candle growth can be removed. Shearing for shape and pruning for density should be done in June.

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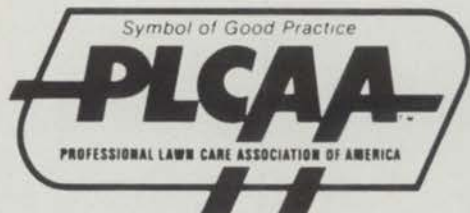
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