



Dow Sales representative Barry Brown discusses insecticide treatments with Ford supervisor John Brugeman.

AF-FORD-ING A DECENT LANDSCAPE

The landscape manager at a Ford Motor Company office is an advocate of 'integrated' pest management, 'integrating' enough herbicides and insecticides to do the job.

John Brugeman covers a lot of ground in the course of a year. He's responsible for maintaining the 750 acres that make up the Ford Motor Company's Research and Engineering Center located in Dearborn, Mich., just outside of Detroit.

Like most top companies, Ford takes pride in its landscapes and devotes considerable time and resources to project a quality image. The company's Research and Engineering Center employs about 20 technicians and supervisors who report to Brugeman. His budget is about \$100,000 per year for fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and replacement plants.

"Our landscape includes a wide variety of shade trees and ornamental

plants, such as hawthorns, crabapples, hibernums and evergreens," says Brugeman. Japanese and English yews and junipers are also found there, although in limited numbers. The greenswards are composed of a bluegrass blend along with some perennial rye and fescue.

Of the 750 acres, equivalent in size to four golf courses, about 200 acres are Grade A and Grade B lawns.

"Grade A is highly maintained turf, usually irrigated," he explains. "Grade B is also highly maintained, but has no irrigation."

Brugeman, a 20-year Ford employee, is an advocate of integrated weed and pest management. "I probably place more emphasis on cultural

practices than most landscape managers," he says.

Weed control

"By maintaining healthy turf through proper application of fertilizers and aeration, we can eliminate many weeds. With frequent, high mowing we have a nice looking landscape," he says.

In spring, Brugeman's staff spot sprays herbicides for dandelions and other weeds. In late August, or even into October, they will spray the whole area to catch a broad spectrum of weeds.

"If we do a good job in the autumn, what's left in the spring is minimal.

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The landscape at Ford Motor Company stretches to the size of four golf courses.

And if there are no weed problems in the spring, we won't spray."

Brugeman tried Turflon D herbicide last year and found that it controlled a broader spectrum of weeds than the other products he was using. "It gave us greater control because of its quicker response," he says. "We'll use it exclusively after we've used up some of our remaining inventory."

Insect control

"On our ornamental shrubs and trees, we usually apply two or three cover

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—John Brugeman
Ford Motor Co.

sprays of insecticide per year as a preventative measure. We don't feel it's necessary to do that on turf. The cost incurred wouldn't be worth it unless we have a serious problem.

Brugeman helps prevent insect problems on shrubs and trees by thin-

ning and eliminating dead wood and other environments where insects might thrive. "If you've got dense foliage in a shrub bed along with high humidity, you've got hiding places for insects. If you can eliminate them and still maintain the aesthetics, design and intent of the landscape, you're doing your job properly."

According to Brugeman, the most serious insect problem currently experienced in Michigan is the black vine weevil. "It's tough to control and attacks numerous ornamental plants. It's a root, foliage and turf feeder, and is nocturnal."

The Michigan Association of Nurserymen recommends some chemical treatments for the black vine weevil.

"We're using Dursban 50W in water-soluble packets on our ornamentals," he says. "I appreciate the obvious safety, container disposal and accurate dosage features of a water-soluble packet. Safety to my employees is an important consideration."

To protect its employees, Ford maintains a hazardous communications program, involving company control over all products used by its employees.

Safety by Ford

"All manufacturers must submit ma-

The most serious insect problem in Michigan is the black vine weevil.

terial safety data sheets to our toxicology department," Brugeman says. Those sheets are carefully reviewed. The company then publishes its own material safety data sheets that communicate hazards, safety limits, storage instructions and protective equipment requirements. "It provides us with all the information necessary to ensure proper and safe use of products. The toxicology people won't recommend unsafe products."

Brugeman holds a B.S. degree in ornamental horticulture from Ohio State University. He has been a director of the Professional Grounds Management Society, was president of the Detroit chapter of that organization and belongs to the Michigan Turfgrass and Michigan Forestry associations.

He's a knowledgeable corporate executive very much aware that a professional job of landscaping goes a long way in enhancing a corporation's image. **LM**