

pesticide treatment would be the most prudent short-term line of defense, followed, hopefully soon, by resistant cultivars," he says.

RESEARCH

Coring, wetting agents battle dry spots

Just because researchers haven't figured out what causes localized dry spots doesn't mean there aren't steps you can take to control them, says Karl Dannenberger, professor at The Ohio State University.

Circumstantial evidence suggests that a fungal hyphae that coats sand particles is the culprit, but the fungus has yet to be isolated. Researchers do know that localized dry spots can be associated with hydrophobic thatch and hydrophilic soil, hydrophilic thatch and hydrophobic soil, and thatch and soil that are both hydrophobic.

One of the most effective management practices recommended by Dannenberger is coring. "We've found that, in the soil profiles of localized dry spots, the thatch is hydrophobic and the soil hydrophilic or vice versa," he notes, "Therefore you need to break one of them down. The fre-

quency of coring might be why some people have problems and some don't."

Dannenberger suggests that everyone should be coring at least once a year. Turf managers with localized dry spot problems should be coring at least twice a year, he says.

Dannenberger also recommends syringing the spots to reduce its canopy temperature. Syringing won't eliminate your dry spot problem but may prevent it from becoming worse. Also, using wetting agents will effectively reduce the spots' severity.

"Preventative applications give the best results but curative applications can also be effective," says Dannenberger. The wetting agents should be thoroughly watered into the turf to prevent the possibility of leaf burn caused by these compounds.

"More than anything else, you can't get away from getting out there and watering these areas by hand," adds Dannenberger.

CORRECTION

ICI inadvertently left out of Buyers Guide

ICI Americas was inadvertently left

out of the LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT Buyers Guide in the September issue.

ICI produces and markets Betasan, Fusilade, Devrinol and Eptam herbicides, Imidan insecticide, Captan fungicide and Vapam soil fumigant.

ICI Americas is the producer of agricultural products. The company is located in Wilmington, DE 19897. Phone is (302) 575-3000.

Existing copies of of the Buyers Guide should be changed to reflect these products.

RESEARCH

Ultra-slow-release N source is studied

A University of Dayton researcher is working on a time-release fertilizer that could make fertilizing a once-a-year project.

Richard P. Chartoff, Ph.D., a professor of engineering materials, is trying to develop a coating similar to those used by drug companies on capsules. Chartoff was originally approached with the idea by Marysville, Ohio-based O.M. Scott & Sons, a major manufacturer of fertilizers. The company is providing Chartoff with \$56,000 for a feasibility study.

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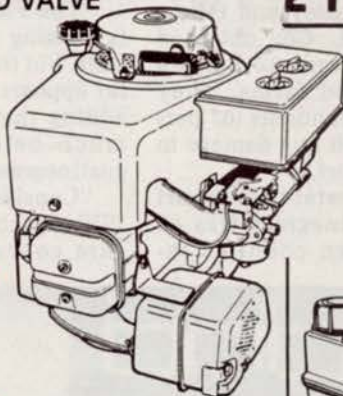
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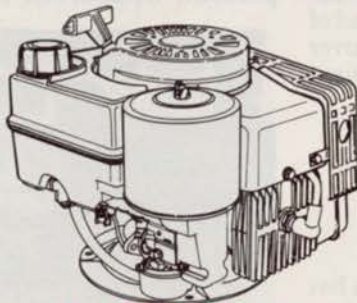


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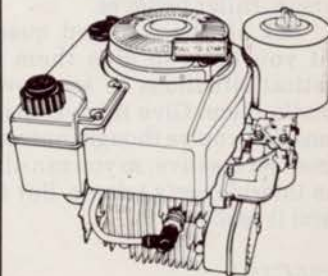
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Though efforts are geared mainly toward fertilizer now, the future may hold similar encapsulation technology for pesticides, especially if environmental concerns continue to rise.

LEGISLATION

PLCAA devises action plan

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America is forming a strategic planning committee to address a wide array of legislative, regulatory and environmental issues facing the green industry in 1989.

During the association's ninth annual conference in New Orleans, La., Russell Frith and Jim Wilkinson, Ph.D., outlined an 11-point action plan. The plan includes increased lobbying efforts on the federal level and additional legal counsel in environmental and regulatory law. Frith is PLCAA president and Wilkinson is director of regulatory and environmental affairs.

"These issues are spreading to all parts of the country," Wilkinson told members, "and it's just a matter of time before they're nationwide. We want to act now to make these regulations as reasonable and workable as possible."

Issues now facing much of the lawn care industry include sign posting requirements; notification of neighborhoods prior to product applications; groundwater and surface run-off concerns; revised worker protection standards and additional requirements in employee certification and training.

Wilkinson said PLCAA was literally taken by surprise by much of the recent activity by the EPA, DOT and OSHA, and realized increased lobbying efforts were needed.

"We want to expand our role to become the primary spokesperson for the industry at the federal level," said Wilkinson. "We will soon establish a council for lawn care information to encourage the user industry to share its expertise with the federal agencies. That way, we can sit down on a regular basis with the EPA and work on the issues, using our knowledge to answer their various safety concerns."

Noted Frith: "We will also be structuring a stronger and more effective governmental and industrial relations committee whose primary responsibility will be to recommend standards, policies and position statements on regulatory and environmental issues to the PLCAA board of directors."

But despite PLCAA's willingness to work toward compromise, they are also fighting back, especially on the issue of local government control.

"We plan to develop generic legal briefs to challenge local regulation and take legal action in the name of PLCAA, if it is found to be in the best interest of the lawn care application industry," said Frith. Wilkinson added that in Maine, Missouri and Wisconsin, the authority of local governments has been struck down. However, "other local governments are continuing to enact all kinds of legislation, and it's time we flexed our muscles and stood firm." Frith said an increase in the association's dues structure would most likely be enacted to finance the increased federal activity, but that many of the industry's larger companies have indicated they would accept higher dues if it resulted in less regulation.

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