

## IPM can protect industry into the '90s

LANSING, Mich.— Dr. Mark Raupp of the University of Maryland believes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) will help lawns and company coffers stay green in the 1990s.

"Improper management practices can feed on the economics of what we do," warns Raupp. He adds that negative public perception will also play an increasing role in the success or failure of lawn care businesses.

Raupp defines IPM as "the selection, integration and implementation of pest control in predicting economic, ecological and sociological consequences."

Among the fundamental biological reasons for using IPM, Raupp says, is that the practice eliminates exposure of non-target organisms, both non-infected plants and beneficial predator insects.

One of the common re-



**Dr. Mike Raupp: "Eradicating pests is not a realistic objective. Practice IPM."**

sults of cover sprays, Raupp notes, is that the primary pests resurge quicker than the helpful predator. In tests conducted by the university, cover sprays for general pests controlled the beneficial organisms, but were very poor in controlling the pests. In those situations, secondary pest

outbreak occurred.

"Eradication is not a realistic objective," insists Raupp. "There are always going to be pests in the system. What you want to do is manage your pest populations below a damaging level. The beneficial predator insects need certain low levels of target pests for sustenance.

"Understand the key pests in the system, know

how to identify them and know their life cycles. "You also need a proper monitoring approach, decision making guidelines and alternative control tactics. Then put it together into an overall management plan with some means of evaluation."

Raupp says proper monitoring yields the information  
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## ...and in Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Integrated Pest Management could easily grab a dominant foothold in this state, if the results of a recent survey are indicative.

"From the results of this survey, the future of urban landscape IPM appears to be promising," notes Wendel Martinkovic, reporting for the Florida Co-

operative Extension Service. "The unusually high response shows an openness and an acceptance of these new practices."

He cites improved water and fertilizer use, proper mower height and sharp mower blades and leaves, and the use of resistant plant varieties as most popular  
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## All around the customers' lawn...



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tion needed to pinpoint pests in time and location.

"Contrary to popular belief," says Raupp, "pests are not everywhere all the time."

And don't discount the presence of pests during the winter, says Raupp, who encourages companies to visit home sites once or twice during winter months to monitor insect presence. □



Heiny extolls virtues of aerification equipment.

## Fertilization, mowing and water are keys to quality

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif. — "You can do more with turf in terms of appearance easier and quicker than any other part of the project," says Dan Heiny, owner of Allseasons Landscape. "Irrigation, fertilization and mowing are the keys."

Heiny offered tips to fellow landscapers at a recent show. Here are excerpts:

- Always mow dry ground. Be sure the lawn is not watered the day prior to mowing. Also, never mow twice in the same direction.
- Fertilize every month with a uniform supply of fertilizer.
- Don't use string trimmers around trees. If customers insist on grass abutting trees, tell them it's risky. Instead, use a hoe, shovel or handpick to make a six-inch dirt barrier around the tree. And be sure not to mow too close to

the tree.

● Aerify regularly. "It'll make you look like a real whiz," Heiny says. "An aerifier is one of the best machines you can use." Afterwards, water to break up the plugs, then mow.

● Test soil moisture regularly.

● Check drainage regularly, especially on rainy days.

● Clear weeds in the walkways. "It's something that gives the extra little detail to a project," he says.

● Check for tree roots in the asphalt. If unchecked, they will eventually break the asphalt and you could be held liable.

● Specify snail and gopher control. These are time-consuming jobs, so the contractor should not be responsible unless they are specifically stated in the contract. □

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ular IPM techniques.

Other perceptions of Florida's lawn and landscape professionals were judged by the survey. Some of the perceptions:

- regulations concerning pesticides used in the urban landscape;
- safety practices;
- the cost of pesticides;
- the number of insects believed to becoming resistant to commonly-used

pesticides; and

● public awareness about alternative types of pest control, including IPM.

The survey has caused the Florida Cooperative Extension to take action.

"A media campaign has been initiated," Martinkovic reveals. "It is aimed at increasing awareness of urban landscape IPM, since PCOs perceive the public as not aware of these practices." □

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