

NUTRIENT from page 31 application.

For one to two weeks after applying a wetting agent, less dew is evident, as it spreads over the leaves and thatch instead of forming droplets.

On golf course greens or high maintenance turfgrasses, wetting agents can inhibit diseases. However, on home lawns this side benefit is not solely important enough to warrant applying a wetting agent.

On hydrophilic (wettable soils), which are the vast majority of turfgrass soils, wetting agents have sometimes been applied to improve drainage, structure, rooting and/or aeration. These benefits of wetting agents on hydrophilic soils have not been consistently documented in research studies, nor is there reason to believe any significant benefits would occur.

—Dr. Robert Carrow, University of Georgia, writing in the "Georgia Turfgrass Association News."

Types of adjuvants

■ An adjuvant is a material which, when added to another material, aids or modifies the action of the principal ingredient.

Adjuvants fall into several categories:

1. Surfactants, including wetters, wetting agents, spreaders. These products lower the surface tension of the spray solution. As a result, spray droplets will "flatten" and cover a larger area. They are used for general improvement in spray material coverage. Pesticides with contact modes of action are most appropriate for use with this kind of adjuvant.

2. Penetrants are adjuvants that enhance the uptake of the pesticide into the target. Thus, the pesticide is made more immediately available to do the job for which it was intended.

3. Anti-foamer/de-foamer products are used for preventing or eliminating foam from the spray mixture.

4. Compatibility agents make it possible for combinations of pesticides or pesticide/fertilizers to be mixed and applied concurrently. They also may allow you to salvage materials that have become incompatible.

5. Suspension agents are products which enhance suspendability and re-suspendability of pesticidal materials.

6. Crop oil concentrates were originally developed for use with post-emergence herbicides. They enhance coverage and improve penetration or uptake.

7. Stickers, with true adhesive properties, are used to enhance retention of the spray deposit on the target. They also increase the initial deposition of the pesticide. The idea is to retain the chemical material long enough to do its job.

8. Drift reduction agents reduce the number of very small droplets produced by a spray nozzle. Larger droplets are thus heavier so they tend to fall more directly to the target.

9. Tank and equipment decontaminants remove residues from equipment following use. Product that remains in the spray equipment may interfere with material used later. Many pesticide manufacturers specify methods of removing residues from equipment following use.

—Bob Reeves, technical services mgr, Loveland Industries, Inc., Greeley, Colo.

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