

# Biorational agents for ornamentals

■ Biorational pesticides are naturally-occurring biochemicals and pest control agents that are used to maintain pests in the ornamental landscape at an acceptable level. Here's a look at some of the most popular agents:

**Pyrethrum:** A botanical insecticide naturally produced by the flowers of the *Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium* plant.

**Pheromone traps:** Sex attractants secreted by the glands of insects. Specific insect

pheromones duplicated and used in a trap containing a sticky substance are available for several pests.

**Horticultural oils:** Improved over the years, to the point where we now have high-quality dormant and summer oils for trees, they are a favorite of extension agents and state entomologists. The oil disrupts the insect's oxygen exchange, cell membrane function, and interferes with feeding habits of sucking insects.

**Pesticidal soaps:** Potassium salts of select fatty acids, effective against many ornamental pests, including aphids, spider mites, mealybugs and whiteflies. One such product is M-Pede insecticide, manufactured by Mycogen.

**Microbial insecticides:** *Bacillus thuringiensis* is the method of choice for lepidopterous larvae, particularly those with high stomach pH.

*Source: Tree Care Industry*

## AgriDyne, Scotts to market Turplex

■ AgriDyne Technologies, Inc. announced in September that it had signed its first marketing and development agreement for its Turplex bioinsecticide—for cutworms, armyworms and sod webworms—since receiving Environmental Protection Agency registration earlier this year.

The five year agreement is with the Professional Business Group of O.M. Scott & Sons Company of Marysville, Ohio. Scotts has received exclusive rights to market Turplex to the U.S. golf course and professional turf markets in early 1993.

AgriDyne retains the rights to market Turplex internationally and to a select group of national lawn service companies.

Scotts initiated Turplex field trials over the summer, with a number of geographically dispersed golf courses.

According to Eric B. Hale, AgriDyne president and chief executive officer, Turplex is an environmentally-friendly insecticide that has been registered for various turf and lawn applications.

"This new relationship with Scotts represents an important part of AgriDyne's overall

marketing strategy of aligning with market leaders," Hale said.

"Our extensive network of field technical representatives, with programming expertise, will enable Scotts to provide the stewardship necessary to successfully launch this innovative new product," said James T. Fetter, Scotts' vice president of marketing.

The active ingredient in Turplex is azadirachtin, a compound extracted from the seed of the tropical Neem tree, known to have natural insecticidal properties.

A potent insect growth regulator, azadirachtin controls insects in the larval stages and has exhibited no evidence of insect resistance.

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