

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

New control fabrics promise end to weed, root miseries of landscapes

■ Kimberly-Clark's new Checkmate landscape fabric is called a "significant breakthrough," because of its three-layer construction.

Two outer layers are tear resistant and permeable, allowing air, water and nutrients to reach plants. The middle section is made of densely-packed fibers which act as a filtering mechanism.

Laminated together, the three layers create a more effective weed barrier that encourages nutrients to reach shrubs more efficiently than in all other non-woven or polyethylene weed control products,

Kimberly-Clark says. Checkmate can also be used as an underlay for walkways, in retaining walls to promote better drainage, on slopes to help prevent soil erosion, or anywhere weeds are a problem.

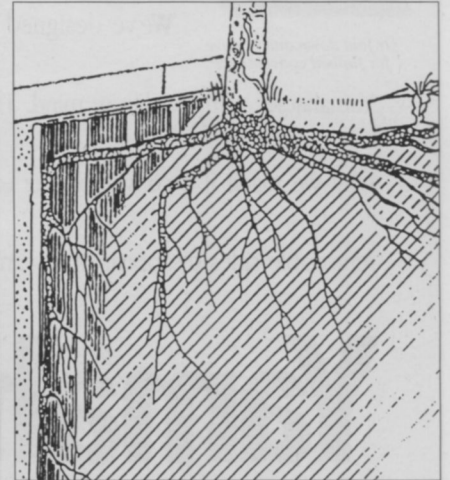
Checkmate is non-toxic, and the company says it conserves soil moisture and helps to moderate extreme temperatures.

Kimberly-Clark says the product is easy to use. It can be cut with ordinary scissors and fits over existing shrubs or in plant bed preparation. Checkmate is flexible, and conforms to any ground contours.

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■ Vespro, Inc., of San Rafael, Calif. is the maker of Control A Root, a new root barrier that deflects tree roots away from hardscape.

Control A Root is made of extruded polyethylene and uses an "agonic curl," that



feeds and directs roots downward. According to Vespro, the curl helps to nurture and guide the roots downward. The panels are connected by slipping one panel into the channel of the other, eliminating the need for a fastening strip, and requiring less time for the landscaper.

Vespro says Control A Root will not crack after it is installed.

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Checkmate control fabric is supple, flexible and easy to install.

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