

# ASK THE EXPERT

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## Be happy for earthworms

**In response:** to a recent question about how to eliminate earthworms from golf greens (May, 1993), Timothy Kelly, superintendent of the Horse Thief Country Club, Tehachapi, Calif., writes:

"Be happy you have a healthy population of earthworms. The benefits far outweigh any possible objections.

"To mitigate the problem of worm castings, install a brush on the front of your greensmower to knock down and spread the mounds of castings. I guarantee you will find no better topdressing."

## Who regulates lawn care?

**Problem:** A number of our employees and clients ask, 'Who regulates lawn care products and services?' We appreciate your comments. (Mich.)

**Solution:** The following is excerpted from a question-and-answer publication of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA):

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).** Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), all lawn care products that contain pesticides must be registered with EPA before they can be lawfully sold or distributed. However, an EPA registration is not equivalent to a recommendation, endorsement, or approval of the product, nor is it a finding of "safety." EPA registration means that pesticide registrants have submitted required scientific data concerning the risks associated with pesticide use.

Since many pesticides have been available for a long time, the review process for these products was done many years ago. FIFRA now requires the EPA undertake the re-registration of any pesticide product registered before November 1984. This includes updating the scientific data base necessary to evaluate the risks and benefits, and reviewing that data according to today's scientific standards. Although the re-registration process is under way, it is anticipated that it will take years to complete. To date, only a few products have been re-registered.

**The Federal Trade Commission (FTC).** The FTC has regulatory powers covering advertising in any medium, whether transmitted orally or in written form. The FTC requires that all advertising materials and claims, including sales presentations, must be scientifically accurate while not being deceptive to the consumer.

**State governments.** Virtually all states require licensing and testing before a company can apply pesticides commercially. Many states also evaluate pesticide advertising within their borders. The responsible state agency is usually the Department of Environmental Protection or Conservation, the Department of Agriculture, or the State Attorney General.

## Defining 'wolmanization'

**Problem:** I always enjoy reading your column in *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*. However, looking through back issues, I came across the term "wolmanized wood" in the December 1991 issue. I am totally unfamiliar with the term, and to make matters worse I could not find "wolmanized" in any of my reference books or dictionary. I would greatly appreciate it if you could put my curiosity to rest. (Va.)

**Solution:** The "wolmanized" wood is a treated wood which, according to our local lumber store representative, can be purchased in any store that sells lumber for exterior use. The word "wolmanized" is the name given to a process by which wood is treated. The lumber store representative mentioned that often companies write on the wood or stamp it, indicating that it is "wolmanized" wood.

## Crabgrass control

**Problem:** We heard about a pre-emergence herbicide called *Barricade* for crabgrass control. Is it labelled for fine turf like Kentucky bluegrass? We also learned that it helps control some broadleaf weeds. We are dealing with a lot of properties with speedwell (veronica) problems. Does the *Barricade* work on this? I appreciate your comments. (N.Y.)

**Solution:** The *Barricade* 65WG herbicide, also known as prodi-amine, from Sandoz Company, is a selective pre-emergence herbicide. It helps manage several annual grassy weeds and some broadleaf weeds.

A Sandoz representative mentioned that currently, *Barricade* is labelled for use on fine turf, including both cool- and warm-season turfgrass all over the U.S., except in California and New York. It cannot be used in your area until the product is registered, which they hope will be in the near future.

The label refers to the use of *Barricade* on perennial bluegrass, which includes Kentucky bluegrass. Reports indicate that one application will provide a season-long control of grassy weeds like crabgrass, annual bluegrass, yellow foxtail and goosegrass. It also helps manage broadleaf weeds such as henbit, knotweed, common chickweed and prostrate spurge.

The Sandoz representative indicated that hard-to-control weeds like speedwell are not on the label. Sandoz is researching *Barricade*'s effectiveness on such weeds.

In your case, *Barricade* might not be a viable option now. For veronica control, a pre-emergence herbicide such as Dacthal may be used. Reports suggest that this material needs to be applied when veronica plants are in bloom for better results.

Read and follow label specification when using any pesticide.

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*Mail questions to "Ask the Expert," LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear in the magazine.*