

# PRODUCT SHOWCASE

## Insecticide provides April to October control

Merit insecticide from Miles, Inc. provides season-long control at a rate of 0.3 lbs. active ingredient per acre.

Available in limited quantities on June 1, the company will make it available in full quantities next spring.

The common name of Merit is imidacloprid. It offers a novel mode of action, says Miles, which makes it effective against insect pests that may be resistant to current insecticides.

Merit does not inhibit cholinesterase in humans.

Merit also provides unusually long residual control: one spring application to control billbugs, black turfgrass ateniens or annual bluegrass weevil will also control white grubs later in the season, eliminating the need for further applications.

Merit can be used on home lawns, commercial sites, golf courses, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and other sites.

It can also be used on ornamental plants in commercial, residential and interior landscapes.

It can be applied as a foliar spray, soil drench, soil injection or broadcast application.

"It's very, very strong on ornamental insects like aphids, adelgids, whiteflies, lace bugs, leafhoppers and mealybugs," says Jim Dotson, Miles research production manager for turf and ornamental products, "but it has poor activity against mites, phytophagous nematodes and most beneficial insects."

**Two-way control**—Merit controls insects by ingestion and contact. Its mode

of action involves post-synaptic blockage of the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor sites of the insect nerve. The insect's nervous system is disrupted, resulting in death.

Dotson says Merit averaged 94% control in 88 trials, about 10% higher than existing compounds.

According to the company, no evidence of phytotoxicity was found in five years of university and company tests.

Because of its low toxicity to mammals, birds and fish, Merit poses low risk to applicators and the environment, says Dotson.

**Well-researched**—"This has been the most highly-researched new insecticide to ever come into the turf market," says Dotson. "University people, who have worked with it for up to four years, are very excited about it." Researchers involved with testing Merit include Dr. David Shetlar of Ohio State University and Dr. Patricia Vittum of the University of Massachusetts.

In Vittum's tests on white grubs, Merit applied in April was found to be active through October.

Shetlar's tests against white grubs, Northern masked chafers and billbugs showed Merit "provided excellent control with reduced concern about toxicity."

**Wide window**—The suggested applica-



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tion window for turf applications runs from early April through mid-August. Merit applied in the spring will control billbugs and annual bluegrass weevils, while also providing excellent residual grub control through the fall.

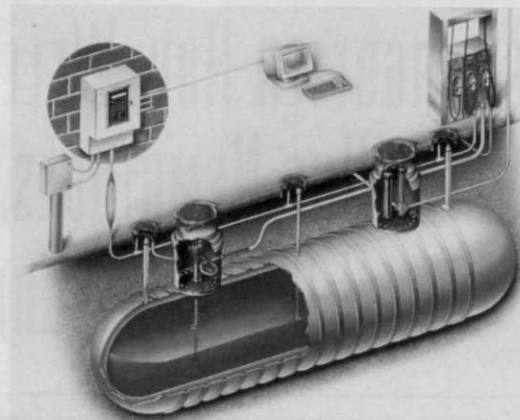
"This combination of a wider application window and fewer applications means greater efficiency for the applicator, and the low use rate means reduced chemical load on the environment," says Steve Chaney, turf and ornamental marketing product manager for Miles.

For maximum efficacy, Merit should be watered in within 24 hours of application. It will be effective, however, if watered in within 8 days.

## Leak prevention for these underground storage tanks

The Omega Environmental Total Compliance Program for USTs includes the proprietary TC-110 Lead Prevention System for monitoring tanks, piping and sumps.

The TC-110 maintains and monitors pressurized air in the annual space of double-wall tanks and pipes. In the event of a breach, the "pressure curtain" pneumatically seals the tank, preventing any product from being released into the



environment.

The system also automatically notifies the owner.

Because of the TC-110's capabilities, American International Group (AIG) has creative exclusive, low-cost pollution liability insurance with coverage of \$1 million per site.

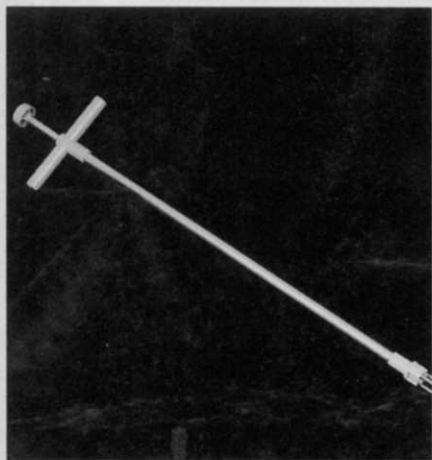
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# PRODUCT REVIEW

## Hand-held tool removes entire weed, roots and all

"Speedy Weedy" makes weeding quick and easy.

Manufactured in Sweden, the weeder is



made of plastic, aluminum and steel. When the tool rotates in the ground, the feeder roots of the weed wrap around its three prongs. A release button ejects the weed off of the tool.

"Speedy Weedy" is 40 inches long, so it eliminates bending down or kneeling.

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## Sickle bar mower offers ultra-fast off-lawn mowing

Troy-Bilt Manufacturing Co. has redesigned its Sickle Bar mower for easier maneuvering around obstacle and other advantages.

In addition to an eight-inch ground clearance for mowing the roughest terrain, the new Troy-Bilt Sickle Bar Mower is available with a choice of 3.5-, 4- and 5-hp Briggs & Stratton engines and new anti-vibration mounted handlebars for greater operator comfort.

It also features larger fuel capacity, wider selection of cutter bar widths (from 34 to 42 inches) and new controls with easy use micro-switches that shut off the machine if the operator lets go while the wheels and/or blade is engaged.

The new unit also features easy power steering as a major product advancement.

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## Yipes! New painting device for field stripes

The Qwik Traffic Striper lays down crisp stripes on turf, asphalt or concrete.

The unit rests on a stable, 13x16-inch base formed by four rubber wheels. A wind guard feature allows striping to be completed on windy days without overspray.

Paint is available in white, yellow, red, black, green and gray aerosol.

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## New combination found to control summer decline

Bermudagrass summer decline complex can be controlled by combining 4 oz. of Chipco Aliette brand WDG fosetyl-Al with 8 oz. of Fore brand WP mancozeb. Fore flowable is not compatible with Aliette WDG, however.

The disease is a reaction to *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia* species, which prey on turf exposed to a variety of stress factors.

The effective concoction was tried by Dr. Leon Lucas, extension turf pathologist at North Carolina State University.

"This is the first fungicide treatment I've seen that can actually provide higher quality turf by controlling the root and

crowns associated with bentgrass decline," says Lucas.

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## Divot repair station reminds players to care for course

Divot Mates, free-standing divot repair tools from Par Aide Products Co., are made of durable polyethylene, and hold up to



four gallons of seed mix in a hinged container.

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## 14 attachments available for infield surface groomer

To help construct and maintain the best possible infield surface, the Toro Company has offered the Infield Pro 5000 and Infield Pro 2000.

Both vehicles are derived from the reliable, operator-friendly design of Toro's Sand Pro line, and each offers users a full line of attachments and accessories to meet the varying needs of municipal parks and schools.

The 5000 has a fuel-efficient, cool-running 16-hp twin cylinder Vanguard engine with a fully pressurized oil lubrication system for

longer life.

The Infield Pro 2000 features a 12-hp Kohler engine with ample power to maintain a fast work rate, whether conditioning, raking or grading.

For the best field surface, attachments include the Finish Grader, Drag Mat Infield Conditioner and Spring Rake. Ten more attachments are available.

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# PRODUCT REVIEW

## Hydrostatic, zero-turn mower hits market

Gravely International's Promaster 100 ZTR mowers are engineered to take full advantage of the latest in hydrostatic transmission benefits.

According to the company, independent control over each wheel gives the operator "unmatched" zero-turning radius maneuverability.

The Promaster 100 unit is powered by a 16- or 18-hp Kohler Magnum engine and features a hydrostatic drive system with two cast-iron wheel drive motors and two Sundstrand variable displacement pumps.

With approximate ground speeds of 0 to 5.7 mph, the Promaster 100 should mow quickly as well as smoothly. The pressure-sensitive, twin T-bar steering levers provide independent wheel control and enable the operator to maneuver as well as change from forward to reverse without changing gears.

An oil reservoir with cooler coils to lower the transmission operating temperature is standard.

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## Flails made for commercial mowing jobs

Kubota Tractor Corp.'s new F3620 front-mount flail mower delivers heavy-duty performance for the most difficult commercial contracts.

The F3620 cuts a 60-inch swath with 152 fine-cut knives as standard attachments. An adjustable cutting height ranges from 0.25 to 4 inches in increments of 0.25 inches.

The mower has a 6.375-inch ground clearance, pneumatic gauge wheels, a full-width rear roller and outboard-mounted grease fittings for easy maintenance.

Tip velocity is 9136 feet-per-minute. The unit is PTO-driven and performs quick and clean cutting. Its specially-designed deck distributes grass clippings evenly back into the turf.

In addition, its on-deck weight transfer system shifts weight from the rear roller to the front tires for better traction.

Kubota's F3620 weighs 515 pounds.

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## Inventory control gives user various tracking functions

Armor Systems of Maitland, Fla., has designed a new version of its Accounting Software.

The Inventory Control module brings more flexibility to accounting systems. Added to the software are point of sale, inventory control, accounts receivable,

purchase orders and customer information modules. Other standard features include listing items by part number with the flexibility to automatically adjust reorder levels based on sales activity. It also will print forms and labels for bins or shelves.

Landscape managers can reduce costs, increase productivity and control all business activity.

**Circle No. 201 on Reader Inquiry Card**

## Record important data with touch of a button

Agricultural Data Systems, specialists in customized computer systems for the agricultural industry, has developed a similar system for the landscaping contractor using the same Touch Memory Buttons.

DataTrack improves efficiency and accuracy, with the touch of a button.

Information such as name, date, time, location and job performed can be recorded and flowed into many accounting packages or spreadsheets.

Information can be used for billing, bidding and payroll.

By using new technology, information can be collected at the job site instantly and accurately.

The system lets the contractor have access to information available on all job activities within seconds.

It costs \$4 to install a Touch Memory Button at each location.

**Circle No. 202 on Reader Inquiry Card**

## Herbicide labeled expanded to include warm-season turf

DowElanco has expanded the label on its Confront post-emergence herbicide to include warm-season turf.

Confront controls up to 35 species of broadleaf weeds, including narrowleaf plantain, henbit, prostrate spurge and other broadleaves.

University and private cooperator trials have determined that Confront is "nearly 100 percent effective" against dandelion, clover and plantain, and other problem species.

Confront is now labeled for use on Southern turfgrasses, including bahiagrass, bermudagrass, centipedegrass and tall fescue.

A non-phenoxy herbicide, Confront can be used in all turf areas including lawns, parks, golf courses, commercial grounds, residential areas and other public facilities such as hospitals and schools.

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