

HOT TOPICS

Survey tracks spread of Ambrosia beetle

by James E. Guyette
Contributing Editor

COLLEGE STATION, Texas—The Asia ambrosia beetle is creating havoc in several nurseries in East Texas. This spring the pest did a minimum \$5,000 damage in one nursery alone.

"We've got a lot to learn about this insect," says Bill Ree, a Texas A&M University research entomologist.

Ree is surveying entomologists in 25 states—from Florida to Maine and as far west as Oklahoma—to determine the beetle's migration patterns.

The ambrosia beetle was first found in the United States in Charleston, S.C., in 1974. It was first identified in Texas in 1985, and under a statewide monitoring program started in 1994, it is now seen in 41 Texas counties. Because many Texas nurseries send their stock elsewhere the impact of the beetle could be more widespread than previously believed.

The only control method specialists can recommend so far is to burn any infected trees—which is something Ree

had to recently tell one nursery owner. "When you have a 5- to 6-year-old (infested) Shumard oak in a 30-gallon bucket and you have to tell her to burn it, that's pretty hard," says Ree. A tree like that can retail for as much as \$250, he says.

The pest attacks numerous woody plants, and its damage may be identified by the toothpick-like spines that protrude one-and-a-half inches from the host plant. These spines are the "sawdust" left after the female bores into the host to make brood galleries.

The ambrosia beetle bores horizontally into the tree, not vertically like most pests. This eventually causes more damage to the different sections or layers.

"The number of infestation sites on a host plant will determine whether it will die," Ree reports.

The pest has been found in Shumard oak, burr oak, chinquapin, red bud, Chinese pistachio, Mexican plum, golden raintree, Bradford pear, and pecan trees.

Ree can be reached at (409) 845-6800.



Musser names major scholarship winner: UM's Paul Johnson

SHARON CENTER, Ohio—The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation has awarded Paul G. Johnson \$6,000 toward pursuit of a Ph.D. degree in horticulture from the University of Minnesota.

"This kind of award indeed reminds me of the kind of support the turfgrass industry has for students like myself," says Johnson. "In my mind, no other industry group shows this kind of support."

"I also look forward to showing my appreciation by serving this great bunch of people in any way that I can."

Johnson, 30, would like to teach and to conduct research in turfgrass breeding and genetics. His doctoral thesis is on "Genetics and Physiology of Flowering on Selected *Poa Annua L.*"

Professor Burton Musser, for whom the scholarship is named, was a turfgrass pioneer for four decades at Penn State University, according to foundation president Frank Dobie. "The foundation is dedicated to promoting that same kind of pioneering individual," he says.

Over the past seven years, \$63,000 in scholarships has been awarded.



New study backs no-risk studies on golf of the past

BELLE GLADE, Fla.—Avid duffers are not at risk from pesticides applied religiously to golf courses, according to a new study from the USGA and 11 universities, including the University of Florida.

"From the pesticides that we have studied, there's not much danger for the golfer," says soil chemist George Snyder of Florida's Institute of Food and Ag Sciences (IFAS) at Everglades Research and Education Center. "We think it's really mini-

mal, based on what we've seen so far."

Snyder and his colleagues, including chemist Curtis Elliott, began a \$2.7 million, USGA-funded environmental study three years ago.

He and turfgrass scientist John Cisar conducted their study on a specially-constructed USGA-specified green. In one phase of their work, they determined the amount of pesticide residue left on used golf shoes, golf pants and on golf balls. As

part of their studies, the scientists walked around the course, knelt on the grass, and even putted balls. They also measured what amounts of pesticides remained in the soil and in runoff groundwater.

"We concluded that most organophosphate insecticides are strongly absorbed into the golf courses' thick thatch layer," says Snyder. "Even less of the pesticide penetrated into the soil and very little seeped into the percolated water."

ON GOLF GREENS...

"Diagnostic Turfgrass Management for Golf Greens," written by Tom Mascaro, is available for \$130.95 from

Turfgrass Products Publications, 4740 N.E. 12th Ave., Oakland Park, FL 33334. The text includes 106 color photographs. Section 1 illustrates how to perform analytical tests on greens. Section 2 outlines how to monitor and treat greens. A 525-page workbook is included.

PHOTO REFERENCE...

The 1995-96 "Garden Plant Book" is the Flower Council of Holland's latest addition to its popular list of full-color photo reference guides. The handy 92-page guide to 394 garden plants is priced at \$9.95, including shipping and handling. To order, send check or money order to: Public Relations Marketing, Holland Plants Dept., P.O. Box 749, Glenwood Landing, NY 11547.

FOR NEW BUSINESSMEN...The Associated Landscape Contractors of America

INFO-CENTER

Literature and videos for the green industry

offers "Guide to Developing a Landscape Maintenance Business" for \$75 (\$50 to members). The book contains 19 chapters on topics like customer service, total quality principles, banks and banking, financing your business, pricing, estimating, costing and equipment purchasing. To order, remit payment, plus \$5 shipping and handling, to: ALCA, 12200 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 150, Reston, VA 22091.

PESTICIDE USE...Reports on pesticide use in the U.S. are now available from the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy. The 537-page National Data Report is \$125, and the 280-page National Summary Report is \$30. State reports, ranging from 10 to 50 pages, are also available for \$20 each. Send check or money order payable to NCFAP, 1616 P Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036. If

you are ordering a state report, be sure to note which state(s) you wish.

SAFETY VIDEO...

Progress Products is selling a safety training video on plant installation. Topics on the 31-minute video are hole size and depth, soil preparation, soil drainage, planting techniques, tree staking and more. Cost is \$64.95 including shipping and handling. To order, send check, MasterCard or Visa number, or purchase order to Progress Products, P.O. Box 29018, Thornton, CO 80229, or phone the company at (303) 289-7740.

MORE ON SAFETY...It only costs \$10 to obtain a copy of the "Groundskeepers Safety Guide," a handy 4- by 6-inch, 80-page booklet from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, Canada's authoritative source for health and safety information. The book contains information on recognizing workplace hazards, safe work practices and use of personal protective equipment. To order, contact the organization's customer service department at (800) 668-4284.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN...The American Society of Golf Course Architects has developed a document that provides objective information on the environmental impact of well-designed golf courses. According to the ASGCA, it is a "must" for municipal officials, greens committee chairs, superintendents and course owners and managers. To order a copy, send a \$10 check payable to ASGCA Foundation to: ASGCA, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.

DEEP-TINE PRIMER...Emrex, North American distributor for Verti-Drain products, has produced a free informational booklet on aeration: "Deep-Tine Aeration: How, When, Why and Where To Do It Properly." To obtain your copy, write Emrex, Box 1349, Kingston, PA 18704 or telephone (717) 288-9360.

FULL-COLOR DISEASES...The first full-color book on diseases of annuals and perennials is now available from Ball Publishing. It contains 494 color photos, 11 reference tables and 166 annuals identified by scientific and common names. For more information, U.S. residents should telephone (800) 456-5380; outside the U.S., telephone (708) 208-9089.

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

1-Oct. 14: Certificate in Club Operations and Golf & Country Club Management, Pan Pacific Glenmarie Resort, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Phone: (011) 603-443-7000.

5-7: Sports, Amenities & Landscaping Trades Exhibition, Royal Windsor (England) Racecourse. Phone: (011) 44-01954-230710.

7-8: Southwest Horticultural Trade Show, Phoenix (Ariz.) Civic Plaza. Phone: (602) 966-1610.

9: Nebraska Lawn & Garden Open House, University of Nebraska John Seaton Anderson Turf & Ornamental Research Facility, Ithaca, Neb. Phone: Amy Greving, (402) 472-2584.

10-12: International Garden & Leisure Exhibition, Exhibition House, London, England. Phone: (011) 0181-855-9201.

11-12: Legislative Leadership Conference, sponsored by American Association of Nurserymen, Washington, DC. (By invitation only.)

12-13: California Turf & Landscape Research Conference & Field Days, University of California-Riverside. Phone: Susan Denney, (909) 787-4430.

13: Hampton Roads Field Day, Hampton Roads Ag Research Center, Virginia Beach, Va. Phone: (804) 363-3906.

13-15: National Urban Forestry Conference, Marriott Marquis, New York. Phone: Peter Frank, (518) 457-7370.

14-16: International Plant Propagators' Society Western Region annual conference, Red Lion Columbia River Hotel, Portland, Ore. Phone: (503) 283-2111.

14-17: Florida Nursery & Allied Trades Show, Stouffer Orlando Renaissance Resort. Phone: (404) 955-8977.

17-19: World Fertilizer Conference, Hyatt Regency Chicago. Phone: (202) 675-8250.

19: "Perspectives on the Landscape: Trees" seminar, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Long Island, N.Y. Phone: (516) 366-0048.

19-21: Virginia Tech Turf and Landscape Field Days, Blacksburg, Va. Phone: David Chalmers, (703) 231-9738.

20: PLCAA Regional Workshop on Customer Service and Risk Communication, Shilo Inn, Portland, Ore. Phone: (800) 458-3466.

20: Landscape Expo, sponsored by Landscape Contractors Association MD/DC/VA, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Md. Phone: (301) 948-0810.

21-22: Shigo Tree Seminar, Turf Valley Hotel and Country Club, Ellicott City, Md. Phone: John Kirkland, (503) 254-0482.

26-28: International Construction and Utility Equipment Exposition, Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville. Phone: (414) 633-4500.

26-29: How Washington Works, The Washington (D.C.) Campus. Phone: (202) 234-4446.

27: PLCAA Regional Workshop on Customer Service and Risk Communication, Sheraton Hotel, Columbia, S.C. Phone: (800) 458-3466.

30-Oct. 5: International Bedding Plant Conference, San Jose, Calif. Phone: (800) 647-7742.