

Stop the zoysia!

Is there a way to stop zoysiagrass from spreading farther and farther in a lawn? If it is not possible, what is the easiest way to get rid of this grass and establish a Kentucky bluegrass lawn?

—OHIO

There is no practical solution to stop zoysiagrass from spreading without damaging the rest of the lawn. One option is to use a non-selective herbicide such as Roundup, Finale, or Scythe to kill the edges. This may kill the zoysia as well as the adjacent desirable turfgrass. The treated area needs to be overseeded with desirable turfgrass. This would be a temporary solution.

The best option for permanent removal of zoysia is to use a non-selective herbicide as mentioned above. Depending upon the density and aggressiveness of zoysia, a follow-up treatment may be necessary to manage any regrowth.

After using a non-selective herbicide, the treated area can be either sodded or seeded. Sodding would be labor intensive and expensive, because the existing dead zoysia turfgrass should be removed and then the new sod needs to be installed properly.

One of the best options is to overseed the treated area using the no-till renovation method of seeding. With this method there is no need to remove the existing dead zoysia. Using a Slicer Seeder (Aeroseeder) the area can be seeded with desir-

able turfgrass cultivars. In this method the Aeroseeder machine will slice the ground with its blades and drop the seeds in the machine-made grooves. With this method the seed will be in direct contact with the soil. Seed to soil contact is very important for better seed germination and establishment. Make sure that the Slicer Seeder (Aeroseeder) machine drops the seeds properly in the grooves. This may be a critical problem on slopes. These areas may require some broadcast applications of seed.

Pine resin by moths

On some Scotts pine we are finding excessive resin coming out. This is found at the base of branches where branches are attached to the main trunk. What causes this? How can we get rid of them? When is the best time for treatment?

—MICHIGAN

Based on the description you provided, it appears that the problem is related to an insect called Zimmerman pine moth. Zimmerman moth larvae mature around late summer and results of their boring activity become very noticeable. When the problem becomes severe, the infested tree trunk is covered with resin just below the branches. The larvae feed at the base of the branches, generally in the top two whorls. Because of their extensive feeding, the infested trees can break from the infested site. Pitch masses can cover the entire tree from

the base of the tree to the top. They produce brown, flaky, sawdust-like material indicative of their activities. Inside the pitch mass a pinkish-brown, spotted caterpillar may be found.

Where the problem is not severe, Zimmerman moth larvae can be hand-picked by disturbing or pulling the pitch mass and destroying them.

For better management, insecticides such as Dursban or Talstar should be applied around mid-April. Proper coverage of main trunk and branches is important.

pH not burn agent

Does pH have a burn potential? When we fertilize shrubs or trees at a recommended dose, will it have an adverse reaction (burn) at low pH (acid) neutral or high pH (alkaline) soils?

—PENNSYLVANIA

Soil pH does not have a direct role in burn potential. It may indirectly influence the burn potential of some sources of fertilizer by the pH effect on solubility, volatilization and nitrification identification.

Burn potential is based on a fertilizer's salt index. Inorganic fertilizers generally have higher salt indexes and tend to have greater burn potential than organic fertilizers. Burn potential will rise with an increase in temperature, or if you use a quick-release fertilizer at higher than the recommended rate. **LM**



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