

Scaling the wall

This spray technician found the solution to minimizing the number of times he had to climb a treacherous wall to treat for crabgrass

Moon Landscaping

Owner: Walter C. Flowers
Location: Yardley, PA
Year started: 1967
2000 gross revenues: n/a
Services offered: Full service landscaping
Employees: 350+



Spray technician Rob Connor (inset) knew the wall (above) presented a safety problem.

Rob Connor, spray technician with Moon Landscaping, Yardley, PA, knew the wall at Horscham Point shopping center in Montgomery County, PA, presented a safety problem as soon as he saw it. About 25-ft.-high with ornamental beds on multiple tiers, it stretched nearly 300 ft. in one direction and more than 100 ft. in another.

"The shopping center had just opened. Our nurseries had supplied many of the ornamental shrubs and trees at the site," Connor explains. "Our Moon Site Division, which specializes in maintaining landscapes around business and industrial campuses, had the maintenance contract. This meant I had to climb that wall next to a main intersection several times to be sure the beds were weed-free."

Connor didn't look forward to the task, for he had to spray with a backpack above busy streets. He wanted to control weeds with one pass, but in late April, some crabgrass had already begun to emerge.

As a customer of Lesco in Warminster, PA, Connor explained his dilemma to Brian Glassey, sales manager. "He told me about the wall," says Glassey. "It was obvious he wasn't anxious to go up on it more than he absolutely had to."

"When he mentioned that some crabgrass had already begun to appear, I knew

traditional crabgrass herbicides would not work," Glassey continues. "Instead, I recommended he try Dimension (dithiopyr) by Rohm and Haas, which has both pre- and post-emergent activity against crabgrass."

Using a backpack sprayer, Connor applied the material in late April. He followed the labeled application rate and needed less than the 2.5-gal. container he got from Glassey. "This was less than half the amount of other products I used for similar-sized beds in the past," Connor says. "Even though I used less herbicide and we had crabgrass emerging in some places prior to using it, the results surpassed my expectations."

Connor only had to treat one escape three weeks later. As a result, he was able to minimize the number of times he went up the wall during the full season. "Three times — that's it," he says. "I went up to spray Dimension in April, then up again about a month later to get one escape. I also climbed the wall again in July to make sure the beds were clean. They were."

"The wall was clean, too," he adds. "Because the herbicide is clear, it did not stain the sandstone-colored stone facing of the wall, either."

— For more information, contact Rohm and Haas at 800/987-0467.