

# ask the expert

BY BALAKRISHNA RAO

## Oversight?

In your July 2001 column you overlooked two applications of microinjection technology for insect management. Gypsy moth infestations have been controlled using microinjection of systemic insecticides for many years in the northeastern United States. Microinjected insecticides can be particularly effective in controlling gypsy moth infestations on tall shade trees and in dense plantings. In these cases, effective spray coverage is difficult to obtain in urban conditions. The systemic insecticide imidacloprid (Merit) is available in a microinjection formulation known as Imicide. Research trials in California have shown that Imicide can remain effective in the control of red gum leprosy for 15 months. In their research trials, USDA scientists found similar long-term activity of microinjected Imicide formulations on the Asian longhorned beetle.

— MA

Thanks for reminding me about microinjection technology. When I suggest some treatments, I normally mention the use of products "such as" and don't endorse any particular product. In my opinion, microinjection technology is a useful way to manage specific plant disorders. It offers an alternative to conventional spraying where spraying is not desirable, permitted or feasible for various regulatory or operational reasons. Reports from arborists indicate that because of the need for wounding during injection, some prefer to use the system only when they have no other means of managing plant disorders or when specific bids call for injection treatments.

## Getting rid of goosegrass

How can we get rid of goosegrass in our customers' lawns? Will Dimension herbicide do a good job? Our goal is to control crabgrass as well as goosegrass.

— IL

Dimension should help manage crabgrass and goosegrass when applied prior to germination. In addition, it will help manage crabgrass when the weeds are at the 2-3 leaf development stage. As they begin to produce tillers, mix with post-emergent herbicides such as MSMA or Acclaim, or use post-emergent herbicides such as Drive or Acclaim. Some of the post-emergent herbicides may discolor desirable turfgrass, so make sure the soil has sufficient moisture while treating to minimize phytotoxicity. Don't worry if discoloration occurs — it's usually temporary and, with the onset of good moisture and turfgrass growth, will disappear.

## Grub attack

White grubs such as Japanese beetles, northern masked chafers and possibly May/June beetles are causing problems on our clients' properties. In the past, we've used insecticides such as Oftenol and Dylox to control grubs. Now, we're thinking of using Mach 2. When can we use Mach 2 to get the best control? How critical is watering after treating? Also, can you offer advice on how to prevent animals from feeding on lawns?

— MI

White grubs such as Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica*), northern masked chafers (*Cyclocephala borealis*) and May/June beetles

(*Phyllophaga spp.*) are all included under the Mach 2 label.

According to the label, Mach 2 may be used either as a preventive treatment or as an early curative treatment. It suggests using only one application at 2.2 fl. oz./1,000 sq. ft. An application of Mach 2 should be made prior to egg hatch or when larvae (grubs) are small. In your area, that time period should be mid-July through early August. Monitor pest activity to discover your area's best treatment time. Also, it's important to identify grubs and their life cycle — one year or two to three years. To do this, examine their raster pattern (i.e. the arrangement of small hairs in the last body segments) by turning them over and examining the last body segment.

Mach 2 doesn't depend on water to be activated. If you want to improve efficacy, however, you should water to move the product through the thatch layer. If drought conditions exist, consider watering to obtain good results. Avoid mowing until the product is washed off leaf blades, or irrigate enough to wash the material on to the target pests. Grubs feed at the soil and root interface beneath the thatch layer, so that's where the product needs to reach.

Preventing grubs would help prevent lawn damage from animals to some extent. However, some of these animals feed on other food sources such as earthworms. The best way to manage large animals like raccoons or skunks is to trap and remove them from the property. Consult your local cooperative extension service or animal control department for proper removal of trapped animals.

Manager of Research and Technical Development for the Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO: "Ask the Expert" Landscape Management; 7500 Old Oak Blvd.; Cleveland, OH 44130, or email: [sgibson@advanstar.com](mailto:sgibson@advanstar.com). Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear.

