

# WEEDS and TURF

## PEST CONTROL

A SECTION OF PEST CONTROL MAGAZINE

AUGUST 1962



Home Lawns in Florida need year round care, and contract applicators are cashing in with improved methods and chemicals, author Tomasello says.

## 913 Florida Spraymen Gross \$25 Million Yearly

**S**OUTH Florida is unique in its mild, subtropical climate, and lawn insects and diseases flourish the year round. The cooler winter months find insects less active and less abundant but never completely dormant. However, such turf diseases as Brown Patch and Dollar Spot are most active during the winter. These and other factors make lawn and ornamental spraying not a seasonal, but a year round business.

A number of significant changes have taken place in the lawn and ornamental spraying business since 1928. During this early period,

By **RUDOLPH TOMASELLO**

Tomasello Spray Company  
West Palm Beach, Florida

there was only one established spray company in Palm Beach County. Not until after World War II did the picture begin to change. Today this is a large and fast-growing industry. According to Frank L. Wilson, entomologist for the Florida State Board of Health, there are 913 certified lawn and ornamental spray companies in the state. The largest number of these companies are located in South Florida. Dade County has 248, Broward County

has 200, and Palm Beach County has 74. Wilson estimates that the gross income from lawn and ornamental spraying in Florida is between 20 and 25 million dollars a year.

### Chinch Bug Spurs Industry Growth

The chinch bug, which is seriously damaging to St. Augustine grass, has been primarily responsible for the growth of the industry. Florida has grown rapidly in recent years. It is estimated that 5000 people are coming every week to make the state their home. Thousands of new houses are being built every year and most of