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Organic wetting agent offers an alternative

A new organic wetting agent and soil penetrant gives turf managers an alternative to synthetically-based products and offers several advantages over conventional wetting agents, says its manufacturer.

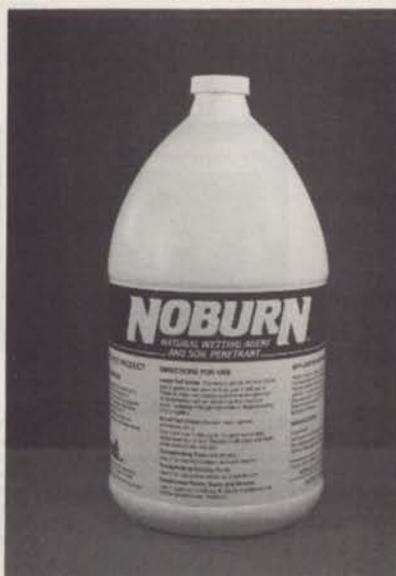
Noburn is organically based, does not burn or discolor turf or ornamental plants, and can be applied with many fertilizers and pesticides. Noburn also does not have to be watered in immediately after application.

"Noburn can be applied during the day and watered in at night during routine irrigation," says Wayne Wall, president of Roots Inc. "This product offers turf managers an effective tool for increasing watering efficiency while eliminating worries about phytotoxicity, particularly in hot, dry weather."

The wetting agent is a natural surfactant derived from extracts of the desert-growing yucca plant, first called SSO.

Dr. Keith J. Karnok, turfgrass agronomist at the University of

Georgia in Athens, tested SSO in two research studies. "In terms of burn or



discoloration, SSO appears to be quite safe regardless of rate," says Karnok, who experimented with SSO rates ranging from 16 to 128 oz.

Among Karnok's findings: SSO rates higher than 16 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. did not result in greater effectiveness.

When combined with some commonly-used turfgrass pesticides, the University of Georgia study concluded that using SSO resulted in no phytotoxic damage to turf. "It should be remembered that this study was not all inclusive when one considers the great number of pesticides used on turfgrass," Karnok cautions.

Says Bob Wicker, president of Southeastern Turfgrass Supply, Jacksonville, Fla.: "Any time you can replace a synthetic chemical product with an organic one, some customers will be interested in the organic approach."

Florida water restrictions are also fueling interest in these products. Timely and regular use of these wetting agents can cut watering time and increase irrigation efficiency, Wicker believes.

Circle No. 191 on Reader Inquiry Card

New seed area covering easily, quickly applied

From Synthetic Industries comes Lanstrand, a polypropylene spray



product which protects against erosion in newly-seeded areas.

The firm says the foamy substance may be applied to degrade either

quickly or slowly, depending on job conditions. Application costs less than mat or blanket products, Synthetic Industries says.

The substance is non-toxic and non-hazardous. Protective gear is not needed when applying.

Circle No. 192 on Reader Inquiry Card

Turfcats lawnmower line unveiled to market

From Jacobsen comes a new line of Turfcats out-front mowers.

The line features both gas and diesel power plants from 17 to 36 hp. Three- and four-wheel drive options are also available.

The Turfcats accommodate rotary decks in 50-, 60- and 72-inch sizes and fine-cut flail decks in 50- and 60-

inch lengths.

Optional equipment includes snow thrower, brush, blade and blower attachments.

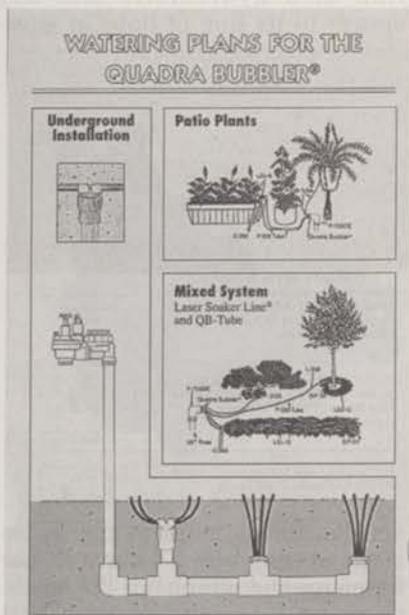


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Handbook details conservation tips

Pepco Water Conservation Products,

Inc. offers a 36-page handbook on conservation techniques including drip systems, micro-irrigation,



quadra-bubbler and laser drip tube methods sold by the firm.

The handbook details specific methods of laying out various irrigation systems and offers professional tips on many facets of design.

Head designs, piping layouts, accessories and other planning steps and purchases are discussed.

Circle No. 194 on Reader Inquiry Card

Wider weed-fighting fabric rolls now marketed

WeedBlock, a fabric designed to retard weed growth in gardens and landscaped areas, now comes in four- and six-foot widths, manufacturer Easy Gardener, Inc. announces.

The geotextile blocks 95 percent of weeds while simultaneously allowing air and water to freely pass to the ground surface.

Easy Gardener says it has added the two wider rolls in response to consumer demand. The company says beds surrounding shrubs are often wider than three feet, the width of WeedBlock rolls now sold.

The firm says the wider rolls will lessen the need for piecing patches together to cover an area. The three-foot width rolls with continue to be sold.

Circle No. 195 on Reader Inquiry Card

New ornamentals herbicide is registered

American Cyanamid Co. announces its Image herbicide has received EPA registration.

The herbicide, introduced in 1987, has been used by professional turf managers to control purple nutsedge, wild onion and garlic and other weeds.

Image may now be used at labeled rates on Indian hawthorne, dwarf yaupon holly, blue pfitzer juniper, Helliery holly, red tip photinia, yucca, wax myrtle and other shrubs. Ground cover applications include Asiatic jasmine, giant lirioppe, variegated lirioppe, pachysandra and mondo grass. The product may also be used around hosta and society garlic perennials and red crepe myrtle.

The herbicide may assist in control of tall fescue, violets, crabgrass annual sedge and Virginia buttonweed.

Circle No. 196 on Reader Inquiry Card

Sprayer works with turf truckster vehicle

A new 240-gallon turf sprayer is now available from Cushman; a fifth wheel attachment designed to work in tandem with the company's Turf-Truckster vehicle.

The spray boom is self-leveling over uneven surfaces and can be adjusted from 6 to 24 inches above the

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turf surface. A high-pressure hand spray gun also comes with the unit.

The fiberglass tank resists chemical corrosion and ultraviolet rays. The trailer frame is constructed of heavy-duty tubular steel. A two-inch ball hitch connects the unit to the Turf-Truckster
Circle No. 198 on Reader Inquiry Card

Thatch reduction product tested; found safe

Bio Groundskeeper has been found non-toxic and non-irritating to eyes, says KLM Bio Systems, Inc., manufacturer of the product.

Bio Groundskeeper, which contains microbial extracts and bio-catalysts, comes in liquid concentrate form and is applied by spraying.

Tox Monitor Laboratories, Inc.,

in Oak Park, Ill., says Bio Groundskeeper made its findings earlier this year.

Bio Groundskeeping aids in speeding up natural decomposition of thatch.
Circle No. 199 on Reader Inquiry Card

38-inch rider now on the mower market

New from Husqvarna is a riding mower model 970-12 which features a 38-inch cutting deck, 1.8 gallon fuel tank and high torque 12 hp Briggs & Stratton engine. According to the company the mower has a rear wheel steering system which permits easier and tighter turning in small spaces.



The front-mounted blade empties into a side-mounted bagging unit which houses two six-bushel containers.

Circle No. 200 on Reader Inquiry Card

Hydrostatic mower added to power mower line

Ransomes has announced the addition of a hydrostatic mid-size mower to its line of Bob-Cat mow-



ers. Ransomes believes the hydrostatic system offers improved performance and eliminates the hassles commonly associated with belt-driven mowers.

A zero turning radius offers enhanced maneuverability. The line has two cutting widths, 54- and 61-inches, forward and reverse walking speeds up to 6 mph and 2 mph, respectively.

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Gallery for weed control

Problem: *How good is Gallery herbicide for weed control? We understand that a fall application of this will control many weeds. (Washington, D.C.)*

Solution: Gallery 75 Dry Flowable is a pre-emergence herbicide manufactured by DowElanco. It is labelled for use on turfgrass and landscape ornamentals. This selective herbicide contains a new chemical compound, isoxaben, which controls annual grass and 44 broadleaf weeds, including chickweed, henbit, plantain, purslane, oxalis, spurge and white clover.

Reports do indicate that a fall application of Gallery can control winter and summer annuals until the end of June. It has no post-emergence activity. Apply Gallery in late summer to early fall, or in early spring, prior to germination of target weeds. Reports indicate that to manage the weeds throughout the summer, the late fall application should be followed with an early spring application. If the application is done in the spring, it should suppress weeds throughout summer.

Gallery can be used on warm- and cool-season turfgrass. Established turf may be reseeded in the fall after a spring application of Gallery. Gallery is reportedly compatible and can be tank mixed with other herbicides registered for use on turfgrass. Gallery is stable on the soil surface for up to 21 days. To be effective, it must be activated with 0.5 inches of rainfall or irrigation.

Read and follow label specifications for better results.

Mountain turfgrasses

Problem: *We have had problems establishing lawns in mountain areas, about 100 miles southwest of Charlotte. What kind of grass would you recommend for planting? (North Carolina)*

Solution: Try using a mixture of two improved turf-type tall fescue varieties (45 percent each) and a Kentucky bluegrass (10 percent).

Properly cultivate and grade the intended seed bed. Consider a soil test by your cooperative extension service, and follow its recommendations for any corrections of pH or other factors.

March is the ideal time to incorporate phosphorus since surface-applied phosphorus does not move in soil.

Use clean, certified seeds with good germination rates. Using a rotary or drop spreader, spread half of the recommended rate of the seed mixture in one direction, and the other half in the opposite direction for the most uniform coverage.

Gently pull a leaf rake upside down over the seeded area. It is important to maintain seed and soil contact for proper germination and establishment. Then, spread straw (not hay) mulch, no more than 1/2-inch thick, over the seeded area. Keep this area moist but not wet throughout the germination and establishment period.

Tall fescue will germinate within a week. The

bluegrass may take two to three weeks to germinate. Germination and establishment depends on adequate moisture. Therefore, it may take a long time under certain conditions. If at all possible, delay the pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicide application until the turf established well. Maintain the turf through proper plant health care practices, such as proper watering and fertilizing and pest management as needed.

Diplodia: a refresher

Problem: *Do you have information on diplodia tip blight, especially as found on Austrian pine? (Ontario, Canada)*

Solution: Diplodia tip blight disease, caused by *diplodia pinea* (*Sphaeropsis ellisii*), can be found on two- to three-needled pines such as Scotch, Austrian, mugo and ponderosa.

Affected plants generally produce resin droplets at the base of the needles as the first sign of the disease. During spring, emerging needles turn brown at the base. Later, the entire needle turns brown.

Quite often the candles produced during the infection year will be completely killed. If conditions for the disease are favorable, the second and third year's new growth will also be killed. As a result, there will be little or no new healthy tissue being maintained over several years. Valuable trees should be maintained with a proper plant health care program: proper watering, fertilizing, mulching and pest management as needed.

Where practical, removing two-year-old cones and selective pruning of affected plant parts when dry is extremely beneficial in reducing the inoculum and further spread of the disease. Susceptible trees also can be protected by applying approved fungicides. It is important to provide the first treatment prior to the candle emergence from the sheath. Then repeat the treatments two to three times at seven- to 10-day intervals. During rainy periods, shorter intervals are needed.



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Questions should be mailed to Problem Management, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow 2-3 months for an answer to appear in the magazine.