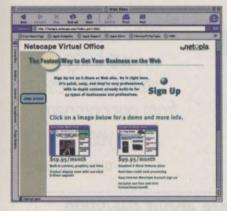
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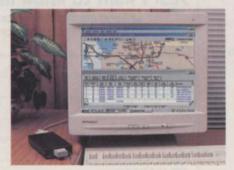
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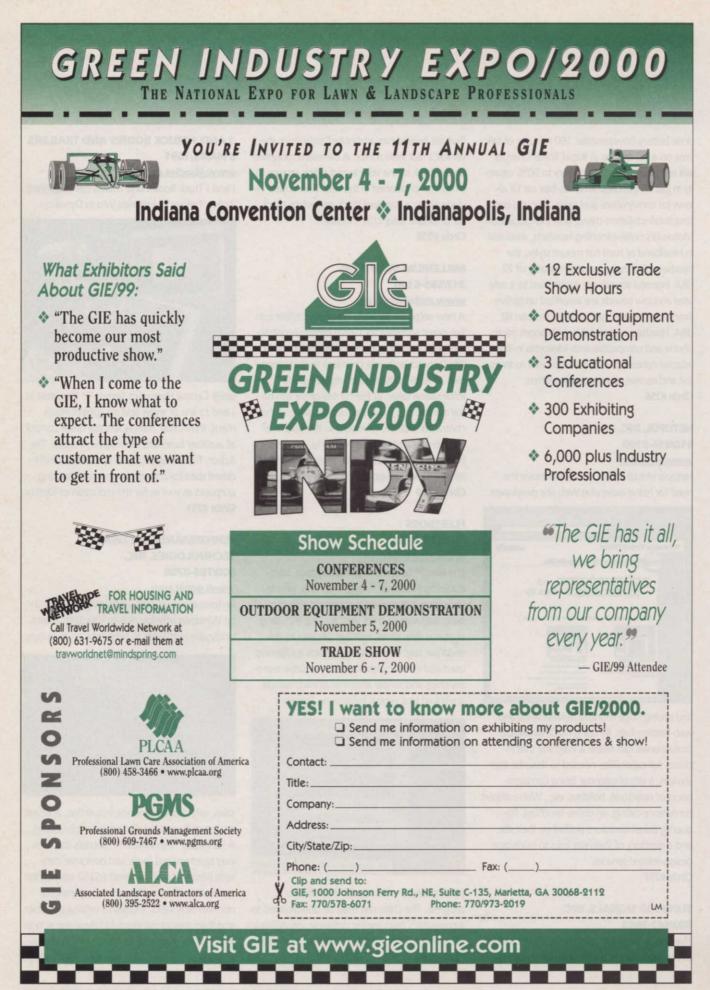
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Circle No. 125 on Reader Inquiry Card

Im reports

continued from page 51

the route person touching the hand held screen. The customer then signs on the screen of Pen Writer and now the invoice, complete with customer signature, can be printed in the field or synchronized back to the office. **Circle #262**

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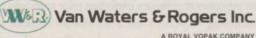
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Tree treatment goes bio

n September of 1997, a client of Mark Webber's Landscaping Company was concerned that 49 Norway Maples (*Acer platanoides*) lining his driveway had verticilium wilt.

When Mark Webber arrived at the property with the intention of gathering information for field analysis and laboratory testing, he saw that the long, tree-lined driveway led to a home built back into the woods. When the trees were installed four years ago, they were 3-in. caliper. Now, they were 18 to 19-ft. tall.

Many of the trees exhibited complete branch die back and cankers with a blackish brown substance oozing out and running down the stem tissue. Closer inspection showed a pattern of heavy decline in certain portions of the plantings, while other areas appeared to have lesser degrees of decline. Significant decline seemed to be in trees located nearest the roadway entrance and wooded entry of the drive.

To inspect the branches and stems, Webber made longitudinal cuts along the plant stems and discovered varying degrees of discoloration that appeared to be a form

A treatment program consisting primarily of biostimulants was the knockout punch for verticilium wilt of vascular disease. Samples were taken and forwarded to the plant lab at The Ohio State University, where positive results came back for verticilium wilt.

The verticilium wilt was brought about by one of the following things (or possibly a combination of all): improper installation; disease was already at the site and the stressed trees couldn't resist it; or contaminated trees were brought to the site.

Seeking a solution

Webber felt there were a few options available to solve the problem. They were:
Removal of the trees — Verticilium wilt is a highly infectious, soil borne disease. Root grafting, mechanical transfer and other means can transmit it. If this option was used, another species not susceptible to the disease, such as oak, would be planted as a replacement.
Health treatments — Many species of trees, including the genus *Acer*, can section off infected tissue by compartmentalization. But for this process to work, the plant should be in good vigor and be conducting all plant processes at optimum perfection prior to an infection.
Bark injections — One means of controlling verticilium wilt is the Mauget fungicide microinjection system. When applied correctly, it controls the active verticilium pathogen in *continued on page* 56

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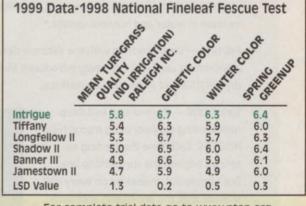
It's very dark green color allows mixing with today's generation of dark green perennial ryegrasses and bluegrasses. Intrigue's dark winter color and fast spring greenup are among the best available.

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Requirements

Ryegrasses

The treatment schedule

- October 1997 Vertimulching started with Webster® vertimulcher.
- November 1997— Mulch rings increased from 2' radius to 4.5' radius with 2-2.5" of double process mulch applied to the beds.
 - March 1998 Dormant oil applied to trees to reduce overwintering pests.
- March-December 1998 System of scouting started.
- June 1998 Trees showing significant loss of limbs and infection selectively pruned. Pruning equipment was sterilized between each cut with 1 part bleach to 8 parts water. All pruning was then burned.
 - July-August 1998 Trees watered due to drought conditions.
 - November 1998 Trees vertimulched. Webber uses the ROOTSinc® product, mycorrhizaROOTS[™], which provides much needed cold tolerant endomycorrhiza and provides a quality biostimulant.
- November 1998 Maples not responding to the treatments were removed. Swamp white oaks (Quercus bicolor) were installed. Fifteen trees were replaced. Transplant 1-Step™ was used to help the trees establish themselves.
 - Summer 1999 Another round of deep-root feeding using mycorrhiza-ROOTS®. "Maples are big endo-users," Webber said, "and the Oaks use ecto-. Supplying both kinds of mycorrhiza in a quality biostimulant will lead to an increase in water and nutrient uptake."
- Fall 1999 Vertimulching with the Webster deep root feeder. This time, the amendment used was the newly introduced M-ROOTS™ a combination of dryROOTS® and affordable mycorrhiza.
 - Spring 2000 Dormant oil and deep root feeding applied, using mycorrhiza-ROOTS®. Each time the feeding extended beyond the current drip line. Root primodial, measured on every visit, showed that this pro-health approach has progressively payed off. Shoot growth has been consistent, showing another 4-5" over last year. Scouting, as recent as May, has shown a 10-13" average shooting longation.

Webber began his attack on verticilium wilt with a vertimulcher.





By using a caliper, Webber found the trees had grown greatly since they were first installed. *continued from page 54*

plants' vascular systems. A concern with this approach is that the injections could cause further wounds, offering pathogens an entry point to attack the plant.

• Leave the trees alone — The last option would be to let nature run its course, then install resistant cultivars to replace the dead trees as time passes.

After meeting with the client to discuss these options, Webber decided to pursue a combination of the first three options with an emphasis on corrective measures to better the trees' health. Part of the reasoning behind this approach was because the trees were still relatively young.

He decided that the "below ground" landscape issues could be corrected by an aggressive program that consisted of vertical mulching, deep root feeding, IPM monitoring, selective pruning, bark injections with fungisol and corrective mulching and bed practices.

Webber's program (see sidebar) is still ongoing, but the verticulium wilt has gone away. "There has not been any wilt since the first year," Webber said. "Fungisol injection killed it off. Keeping trees and roots young and vigorous will keep the wilt at bay."

— Mark Webber is a certified arborist and owner of Mark Webber's Landscaping Company, Dayton, OH. In business for over four years, Webber's company has 11 employees, three of whom are ISA certified arborists.

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BY BALAKRISHNA RAO, PH.D.

Magnolia scale

We have a problem with magnolia scale. Our local nursery person told our client to spray with Cygon. Instead, we applied oil once in early summer and again in late summer. We found a few dead scales but a number of scales are still juicy and fleshy. What should we do? — MISSOURI

Magnolia scale is a serious pest on magnolia in many locations in the United States. The label that I have doesn't recommend using Cygon spray as you may experience some phytotoxicity.

The oil treatment you provided may not be effective for a couple reasons. We don't recommend oil treatment in summer months to manage the large mature scales. Also, the rate you have used (1%) is too low. I prefer 2% oil applied at different timings.

The 2% oil treatment should be targeted towards young second instar crawlers (nymphs). These young crawlers should be active on leaves around late August through September. By November through December, they will move from leaves to twigs. Therefore, an application of 2% oil during late September/October, and again during February/March, will help manage them. Oil doesn't have residual, so good coverage is important. In addition, if the problem is severe, you can use insecticides such as Dursban (the one you mentioned) during late August through early September (at least for the next season).

Cytospora canker

On a large estate property, several spruce trees' lower branches show

extensive needle drop and some of the needles have purplish discoloration. The branches' inside canopy has some whitish resin. The trees are 35 ft. tall and growing in sandy soil. No nylon thread at the base of the stems was found; however, on many trees there are no root flares. What might be the cause? — MICHIGAN

Based on the symptom pattern, the problem is most likely related to Cytospora canker. This fungus establishes on stressed and weakened trees, particularly as they age.

You mentioned that the trees are growing in a sandy soil. This may contribute to moisture deficiency at different times, particularly during drought conditions. Also, evergreens can become injured during winter due to insufficient moisture for uptake. Even though moisture may be in soil, it may be frozen during winter.

However, on sunny and windy days, exposed plant parts may lose a lot of water. Since the moisture is frozen, it will cause an imbalance in water uptake, resulting in winter drying and subsequent injury. Some of the injury may not be evident the following spring. This year I have seen a number of evergreens showing the adverse effect of drought. Therefore, consider exposure to extremes in moisture and/or temperature contributing to the decline.

There is no fungicidal recommendation for cytospora canker disease management. Reduce stress and provide good growing conditions and water as needed during dry periods. Improve plant health through proper mulching, watering and fertilizing as needed.

Regarding the lack of root flare, check out the possibility of fill around trunks that would contribute to stress. Some trees may not demonstrate a pronounced root flare, particularly when they are younger.

Dutch elm disease

One of our representatives sold Dutch elm disease management using Arbotect. It has been sold as treating once every two years. When I reviewed the label, it says one-year preventive or three-year therapeutic rates. What would be the best approach?

- ILLINOIS

Arbotect can be used preventively or therapeutically depending upon the disease activity and need basis. The Dutch elm disease should be managed preventively where feasible. An alternative option is to treat therapeutically. In this situation, reports indicate that success depends upon the severity of the disease in the tree. If the tree has less than 5% crown infection (flagging symptoms), there's a chance of recovery. If there is more than 5% crown infection and dieback, the tree may not respond well.

Make sure the injections are made on root flare as close to the ground as possible. It may be necessary to remove soil from root flare and then inject. Also, make sure that the injection "Ts" are not placed in the "valleys" of root flare

and that the correct drill bit is being used. Drill into the current year's growth for optimum uptake.

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. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear.

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