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Lawn Pest Control

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Most lawns in Idaho will never have an insect problem serious enough to apply chemical control measures. Some insect damage can be tolerated because it will not detract from the beauty of the turf.

Insects and related pests damage lawns in different ways. Some lawn pests infest the soil and feed on the roots. Others feed on grass blades and stems or suck juice from the plants. Several insects inhabit lawn areas without damaging the grass; these may be annoying to the homeowner. Often pests are not noticed until grass turns brown and begins to die. You must know the cause of the lawn problem before you can attempt control measures.

You can protect beautiful lawns from insect damage with the proper use of insecticide. Effective insect control is based upon proper application of an appropriate insecticide at the correct time. Timing of chemical applications is as important as choice of chemical. Improper timing or application of the treatment may allow injury to occur. There is no one chemical that will control all lawn pests. Insecticides listed in this bulletin have been used extensively and offer the best known control at this time. Local conditions may favor using one product over another.

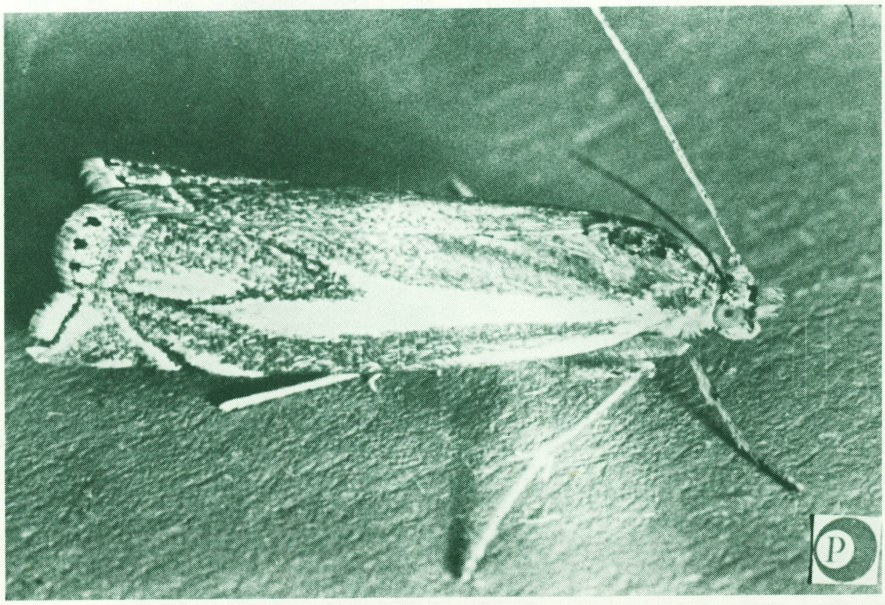
Insecticides can be purchased in several formulations. Wettable powders (WP) and emulsifiable (liquid) concentrates (EC) must be diluted and mixed in water before application. Dusts (D) are purchased ready to use and require no mixing. Granular (G) formulations are also used in the form in which they are purchased. In lawn areas, granular insecticides are broadcast evenly over the surface.

Whatever the insecticide, **Read The Label and Follow The Directions.** Not only is this the safest way, it insures the best possible insect control.

Abbreviations

WP: Wettable Powder
EC: Emulsifiable (liquid) concentrate
tbl.: tablespoon
tsp.: teaspoon
pt.: pint
D: Dust
G: Granule
1 tbl. = 3 tsp.
16 tbl. = 1 cup
2 cups = 1 pint

Sod Webworm *(lawn moth)*



INSECTICIDE LIST

These insecticides are recommended for control of lawn pests. Use the formulations and concentrations listed below unless otherwise specified on the label. Be accurate with your dilution rates.

Insecticide		Amount of insecticide per gallon of water
Aspon	13% EC	2 Tbl.
Diazinon	4% Dust	——
	17% EC	1 Tbl.
	25% EC	1 Tbl.
	50% WP	4 tsp.
Dursban	5% EC	1 Tbl.
Kelthane	2% EC	3 Tbl.
Malathion	57% EC	1 tsp.
	25% WP	5 Tbl.
Rabon	50% WP	6 Tbl.
Sevin	5% Dust	——
	20% G	——
	10% EC	2 Tbl.
	27% EC	1 Tbl.
	50% WP	2 Tbl.

HOSTS AND COMMON PESTS

Pests	Description and type of injury	When and where to treat	Insecticide to use
ANTS	Tiny to large (1/20 to 3/8 inch), usually black or brown. Live in soil in lawn and garden. Commonly build mounds of soil in lawn.	Treat soil or spray mounds weekly until ants disappear. Treat when ants are encountered.	Diazinon D, WP, EC Dursban EC Sevin D, WP, EC
BLUEGRASS BILLBUG	The immature are white, legless grubs (1/4 - 3/8 inch). Feed upon grass roots, eventually killing grass and causing brown, dead areas. Adults are 1/4 to 1/2 inch long, black or dark brown with a long snout-shaped head.	For best results, apply insecticide in early June when overwintering adults have emerged. Treatments applied when injury is first noticed will achieve some control. Sprinkle lawn thoroughly with water after treatment to soak insecticide down into grass root zone.	Diazinon D, WP, EC
CLOVER MITES	Small (1/30 inch) spiderlike pests with long front legs. Found in grass or shrubs. May invade dwellings in numbers. Cause staining of walls and buildings.	Spray when encountered. **Outside:** Spray house from ground to the roof as needed. Also area 10 ft. out from house, including shrubs and grass. **Inside:** Vacuum walls and carpet. Avoid smashing mites. Spray room and around windows and doors with household aerosol sprays.	Kelthane EC Diazinon WP, EC Malathion EC, WP Dursban EC Baygon, Pyrethrin (pressurized can)
CUTWORMS	Soil-dwelling caterpillars (1-2 inches) that feed at or near the ground level. May severely damage new grass seedings in spring.	Treat as needed in springtime. Spray lawn and infested area. Insecticides are more effective on young caterpillars.	Sevin D, EC, WP Diazinon D, EC, WP Dursban EC

Pests	Description and type of injury	When and where to treat	Insecticide to use
NIGHTCRAWLERS	Earthworms, several species make mounds of soil in lawn, causing uneven, rough surface. Their presence helps soil texture.	There are no currently registered products for this use.	
EARWIGS	Dark, reddish-brown (5/8 inch long) with forcep-like appendages at rear of body. Eat holes in tender leaves and blossoms at night.	Treat when earwigs are encountered. Spray soil, plants, shrubs, foundation of house, buildings and woodpiles.	Diazinon D, WP, EC Dursban EC Sevin D, WP, EC Malathion D, WP, EC
GRASSHOPPERS	Not normally a problem in well-kept lawns; but when forage is scarce, several species may invade lawn areas. In severe infestations, may eat grass off near ground level.	Treat when grasshoppers are encountered. Insecticides are more effective against small grasshoppers than against larger ones.	Malathion EC Dursban EC Sevin D, WP, EC Diazinon D, WP, EC
LEAFHOPPERS	Slender, less than 1/4 inch long, green, yellow or brownish insects that hop or fly short distances above lawn surface. Feeding causes grass blades to be mottled or whitish in appearance; however, damage to lawn is usually slight.	Leafhoppers migrate so extensively and continuously that spraying provides only very temporary relief.	Malathion EC Diazinon D, WP, EC Sevin D, WP, EC
SOD WEBWORM	Light brown caterpillars (3/4 inch) found in root crown area of the grass. Adult moths live in shrubbery or sheltered areas during day and fly over lawns laying eggs in early evening. Caterpillars feed on grass leaves and build tunnels made of dead grass, soil, debris in the dying grass. Caterpillars may be found by breaking apart drying sod.	Insecticide treatment is aimed at control of caterpillars that feed on grass. Control of adults is difficult and usually ineffective. Spray or dust entire lawn area. Remove dry grass from dead areas. Treat with insecticide and reseed.	Diazinon D, WP, EC Sevin D, WP, EC Dursban EC Aspon EC
SOWBUGS (Pillbugs)	Sowbugs are light gray to slate colored. Often called "roly-poly bugs" or "pillbugs," they roll up into a tight ball when disturbed. They are soil dwelling pests that may feed on grass blades and roots. Seldom are they a severe problem.	Treat soil area where sowbugs are encountered as needed.	Dursban EC Diazinon D, WP, EC Sevin D, WP, EC
SPIDERS	There are over 1,000 different species in Idaho. These fast moving, 8-legged creatures live in the grass, soil, shrubbery and in and around buildings. Spiders feed upon pests in the lawn and yard.	Treatment is not recommended unless their nuisance value far exceeds their control of yard pests. Spray lawn and surrounding areas.	Diazinon D, WP, EC Sevin D, WP, EC Malathion EC, WP
TICKS	Spiderlike. (1/8 - 1/4 inch). Several kinds of ticks are found in lawns although they do no damage to the grass. They drop on the grass from dogs and may later attack man.	Treat infested shrub and lawn areas when ticks are first encountered. Repeat applications may be needed.	Diazinon WP, EC Dursban EC Rabon WP
WHITE GRUBS	White, fleshy grubs with dark heads. 1-2 inches long. Found in soil usually curled into a C-shape. Feed on roots, cause dead brown spots in lawn.	Treat infested lawn areas when grubs are encountered. Apply insecticide to lawn and then water thoroughly to get insecticide into root zone. Reseed damaged areas.	Diazinon D, WP, EC Dursban EC

GENERAL WARNINGS

All pesticides are poisonous to warm-blooded animals to some degree. They should be handled cautiously to prevent poisoning pets, livestock, wildlife, children or the user. When using any chemical, observe the following safe use procedures:

1. Always read the label before using any chemical, and carefully follow the directions given. Each time before opening the container note warnings and cautions.
2. Keep insecticides out of reach of children, and pets. Pesticides should be kept in their original containers, outside the home, in a locked storage.
3. Do not spill concentrates or sprays on the skin or clothing. If they are spilled, remove the contaminated clothing immediately and wash body and clothes thoroughly.
4. Never smoke while spraying.
5. Avoid inhaling insecticide mists and vapors; and when directed on the label, wear protective clothing and a face mask. A handkerchief fitted to the face, coveralls and gloves will help prevent excessive inhalation and contact with the insecticide.
6. Wash hands and face and change clothing immediately after spraying. Always wash clothing before reuse.
7. Cover food and water containers when treating around livestock or pet areas. Do not contaminate fish ponds.
8. Use separate equipment for applying hormone-type herbicides in order to avoid accidental injury to susceptible plants from contaminated spray equipment.
9. Always dispose of empty containers in trash or by burning or burying so that they pose no hazard to humans, animals or plants. When burning containers, avoid inhaling the smoke.
10. Observe label directions and cautions to keep undesirable residues off fruits and vegetables.

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