

# TURF TWISTERS

## REMOVE

**Question:** With the recent loss of DDT, will other related insecticides like chlordane be removed from commercial use? (Washington)

**Answer:** There is a definite possibility that within the next year or two, chlorinated hydrocarbon-types of insecticides will be severely curtailed for commercial use. These include aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, heptachlor and endrin. The problem is that these materials persist too long in nature and are not easily broken down. They may eventually contaminate water supplies and endanger wild life.

Other chemicals that may be used in their place include toxaphene and lindane. The organic phosphates like diazinon, ethion and carbamate sevin, are not in danger because they break down sooner. In addition, newer chemicals like the systemics baygon and dasanit may offer a better approach to the problem.

## POA ANNUA

**Question:** Our club is on a gradual program of conversion from *Poa annua* to bentgrass using light rates of calcium arsenate to suppress the *Poa*. Can an application of another herbicide in the spring to control weeds, further weaken the *Poa* so it will go out faster than anticipated? (Connecticut)

**Answer:** All herbicides adversely affect the metabolism of the turf plant to some extent, although how much is not known. If the *Poa* is sufficiently weakened by the arsenate, an application of another herbicide may disrupt the plant enough to cause quicker death in periods of moisture or temperature stress. We have seen this on occasions, especially in low, wet areas. If there is any doubt it would be best to postpone weed control until fall or prior to renovation and overseeding.

## MISTAKES

**Question:** Is there anything that can be done after a misapplication of pesticides has been made? (Pennsylvania)

**Answer:** Very little if anything can be done to reduce the initial injury to turfgrasses from a misapplication of a pesticide. On the other hand, the long-term effects of misapplied chemicals can be reduced by an application of 150 to 200 pounds of activated charcoal per acre. An application of charcoal will permit the establishment of turf from seed where it may normally be prevented by phytotoxic levels of pesticide in the soil.