

It is Time to Review and Plan Ahead



IPM Corner

It is time to review your past season's pest management program and plan for 1993.

Did you meet the goals of your 1992 pest management program? Was your pest management season a success or failure? What types of techniques and control strategies were new and different? Were these new techniques successful and cost effective?

Incorporate the information learned from the 1992 data into next season's pest management plan.

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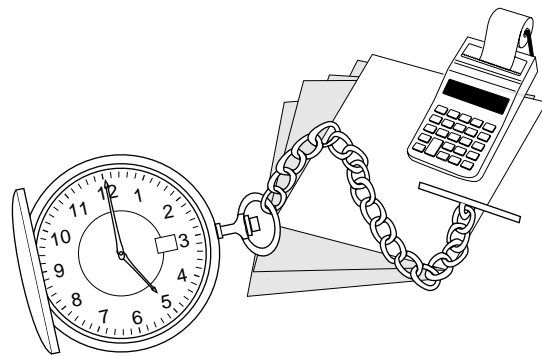
Another turfgrass growing season has passed. I doubt insects, diseases and weeds are on your mind now. However, after you take a well deserved break (hopefully in a subtropical or tropical environment), between repairing equipment and plowing snow, it is time to review your past season's pest management program and plan for 1993. Utilize the following information as a foundation. Augment this information with your own ideas to develop a specific review program for your turfgrass situation.

Start the review process by assembling your 1992 pest management records. Collect your field notes, scouting data sheets, and pesticide application information. Don't forget to include notes from your daily ledger or diary. If you do not have this information, do the best you can by recreating the season from your memory. If you are unable to develop a historical perspective, plan methods to collect turfgrass and pest data for 1993. Previous CUTT articles have detailed information on methods and techniques for collecting field pest data.

Answer the following pest management questions. They will help start the review process. Did you meet the goals of your 1992 pest management program? Was your pest management season a success or failure? Note the reasons for the success. Examine why and where things went wrong. What types of techniques and control strategies were new and different? Were these new techniques successful and cost effective? Describe troublesome turfgrass areas and pest problems. Employees, field notes and scouting data are valuable resources to help answer these questions. Expand this list of questions to suit your needs.

Conduct a simple analysis of the pest and pesticide data you collected. Create simple charts to help summarize data. Begin by examining all the pest data. Assess where, when, and what type of pest problems you encountered. The types of data necessary to conduct an analysis include, but are not limited to general pest information such as, dates when you started and stopped seeing the pest, how frequent the pest was observed, pest severity ratings over time and all the locations you observe the problem. Determine the total area the pest was a problem either in square feet or acres. Look for pest trends, problem areas, and the success or failure of control actions.

For each pest calculate the number of pesticide applications (per product), amounts (gallons, or lbs.), and Acre Treatments (ATs). ATs equal acres treated times the number of applications. AT levels are an excellent method to follow pesticide use trends. Total the amounts and frequency for each class of pesticide (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides).



Estimate the average labor hours to mix, apply, and clean equipment for each application. To calculate total labor hours multiply the number of applications with the average labor hours per application. Determine total cost of pesticides by adding the cost of the products and total labor hour costs.

Design a graph or chart to consolidate the pest and pesticide data together. Graph individual pest levels by date. On the same graph, mark the dates specific pesticides were applied. Evaluate the pest and control trends. The combined data is an excellent indication of the success or failure of your pest control efforts.

Incorporate the information learned from the 1992 data into next season's pest management plan. If you had trouble addressing these types of questions spend the winter designing a scouting program. Develop field data sheets and summary reports. Contact your local Cooperative Extension agent for assistance.

GERARD W. FERRENTINO, ORNAMENTALS IPM COORDINATOR

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Cornell University Turfgrass Times
20 Plant Science Building
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853