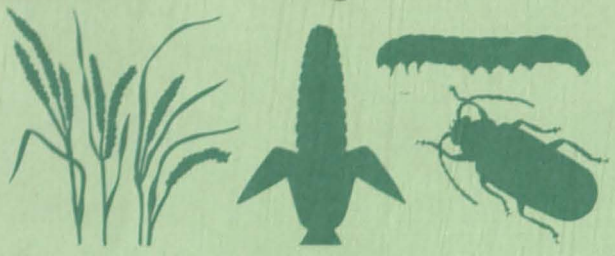

PLANT PEST Newsletter

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

PPST03 April 29, 1994

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CORN

TILT CORN REGISTRATION—Tilt Fungicide has received a full label for application to corn — Field, Sweet and Seed. The Leaf Blights, Northern, Southern and Northern leaf spot, rusts, grey leaf spot and eye spot are on the label. Apply 2 - 4 fluid ounces/acre on a 7 to 14 day schedule. See label for specific directions and follow the directions to avoid residues. Application on a timely basis relative to disease development will improve product performance. Late applications last year in the heavy disease situations resulted in poorer than expected performance. I do not expect applications will be needed on field corn, only seed and sweet corn in Minnesota.

Ward C. Stienstra
Extension Plant Pathologist

MISCELLANEOUS

DID BLACK CUTWORMS ARRIVE? — The intense low pressure system that affected southern Minnesota provided the key ingredients for black cutworm migration. Black cutworms migrate northward from Mexico, Texas and the Gulf Coast each spring. Weather systems determine where these moths land. Conditions favorable to migration into Minnesota include an approaching low pressure center that tracks across southern Minnesota on to northern Iowa with an accompanying high pressure in the eastern US. Two to three days of southerly winds usually precede arrival of the rain. The moths settle out when they encounter cold air or thunderstorms. These

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND COUNTIES COOPERATING

conditions prevailed from April 23-25 and could have brought a significant flight into the southern third of Minnesota.

Unfortunately a budget squeeze has forced us to discontinue the pheromone trapping network for black cutworms after a 10-year run. That leaves us blind for migratory invasions except for a few Minnesota volunteers who are maintaining their own traps and trap reports from northern Iowa. Keep an eye on freezing temperatures that may resolve concerns about egg laying moths or their eggs.

Ken Ostlie
Extension Entomologist

HERBICIDE RECROPPING RESTRICTIONS FOR SUNFLOWER AND CANOLA — Several commonly used herbicides have recropping restrictions for sunflowers and canola. The following is a list of some of the herbicides that have restrictions. Since herbicide labels are constantly changing, it is important to read the label and follow the recropping restriction on that label.

Herbicide	Recropping Restrictions (Months)	
	Sunflowers	Canola
Accent	18	18
Assert	NCS[1]	15
Curtail	12 to 18[2]	12
Curtail M	12 to 18[2]	12
Pursuit	26	26
Stinger	12 to 18[2]	12
Tordon	36[3]	36[3]

[1]Next Cropping Season.

[2]**Do Not** plant sunflowers for 12 months after a Curtail, Curtail M or Stinger application, or 18 months if soils contain less than 2% organic matter and precipitation is less than 15 inches during the 12 months after treatment.

[3]**Do Not** plant sensitive broadleaf crops for 36 months after treatment or until a soil bioassay determines that soil residues are at a safe level.

Beverly R. Durgan
Extension Weed Scientist

FAR-GO (TRIALLATE) AND TREFLAN (TRIFLURALIN) IN HARD RED SPRING WHEAT AND BARLEY — Because of the cool wet soil conditions this spring, I have received several phone calls on spring application of Far-Go (triallate) and Treflan (trifluralin) in hard red spring wheat and barley. The potential for crop injury increases under cool, wet soil conditions because the crop emerges slowly and is in contact with the herbicide for a longer period of time. Also, the combination of these two herbicides have a greater potential for crop injury than either applied alone. The following are some ways to minimize crop injury:

1. Preemergence incorporated is the safest method of spring application. Be sure to incorporate above the small grain seed.
2. Use the lowest labelled rate for both Far-Go and Trifluralin.
3. Delay planting until soil temperature warms up and crop emergence will be quicker (not my first choice).
4. Barley has better tolerance to this herbicide combination than spring wheat. If crop injury is a concern, use this combination on barley instead of wheat.
5. Apply either Far-Go or Trifluralin, not both, then use a postemergence herbicide if needed.

If soil temperature increases and the crop emerges at a normal rate, the potential for crop injury decreases rapidly. With ***Luck*** we should soon see some warmer temperatures, and these issues will no longer be of concern.

Beverly R. Durgan
Extension Weed Scientist

DIAL U

County Agents: Please Alert Master Gardeners of the Following Items

PRUNING REMINDER—Don't prune oaks until July. Only prune during dry weather and make proper pruning cuts to insure rapid sealing of the wound. When pruning diseased plants be sure to dip the shears in a 10% bleach solution for about a minute between each cut. Dispose of all removed material properly.

Apple Scab—Scab infection has started thanks to the rainfall this week. Symptoms will become apparent in the next 1-3 weeks on susceptible cultivars. To keep scab to a minimum you must begin fungicide applications between green tip and the pink stage. For more information refer to the April 14 *Plant Pest Newsletter.*

Problems with Rhizosphaera needle cast on spruce? Improve the vigor of the tree and consider applying a fungicide with the active ingredient chlorothalonil. More information on this next week.

It's tick season—Both American dog ticks (wood ticks) and deer ticks (black-legged ticks) are active now. Adult American dog ticks are present from April through June. Both immature nymph or adult deer ticks can be present in spring. It is important to distinguish between these two ticks as deer ticks are potential carriers of Lyme disease while American dog ticks are unimportant disease vectors. Although it is relatively easy to distinguish between adult ticks, people may also encounter immature nymphs or engorged ticks which makes identification more difficult. If there is any doubt as to which ticks are found, especially if they are found biting, submit them for identification.

When submitting ticks, it is important **NOT** to tape them. It is difficult to see through the tape and the specimen is likely to be damaged when the tape is removed. Also **do not** put specimens loose in envelopes. Dead ticks should be wrapped loosely in tissue paper. If ticks are still alive, put them in a container with ethyl or isopropyl alcohol (make sure it has a tightly fitting lid).

People should protect themselves when they are in known tick areas. Wear light-colored clothes so ticks can be seen more easily. When practical, wear long sleeve shirts and long pants. Keep tall grass and weeds cut down around the yard. When hiking, stay on trails and avoid tall grass. Check people (especially around the head) and pets after returning from a known tick area. If added protection is necessary, use a repellent containing DEET or permethrin (be careful not to overapply). See also FO-1013, *Minnesota Ticks and Their Control* and FS-3753, *Lyme Disease in Minnesota.*

Centipedes in homes—These insect relatives have been more common now that spring is warming up. They have flat bodies, are brownish, and have 15 pairs of long conspicuous legs. Adult centipedes grow up to an inch in length. Centipedes can be considered beneficial because they feed on insects, spiders, and similar creatures. Centipedes are not aggressive and rarely bite people. In homes, centipedes move quickly across floors, walls, and ceilings, hiding under boxes, papers, and other objects, particularly where it is damp.

Tolerate centipedes when possible. If they can't be tolerated, kill and physically remove them. If large numbers of centipedes are found, they have found a favorable environment. Dry out any damp areas that are present. Repair or seal any cracks or gaps you find outside around the foundation to limit their entry. When practical, control their prey to reduce centipede numbers. Remove boxes, bags, and other items to reduce potential hiding places. You can supplement these nonchemical efforts with an insecticide labelled for indoor use. Spray in areas where centipedes are found, especially behind baseboards and other cracks and crevices where centipedes may hide. See FS-1023, *Sowbugs, Millipedes, and Centipedes in the Home.*

Dial U is receiving calls for suggestions on plant selection and sources where they may be purchased. Although Dial U is best known for problem-solving, experienced horticulturists are available to help you choose just the right groundcover, tree, shrub or other landscape plant that will function well in your specific site.

Lawn fertilization is another constant source of questions. Though we usually tell people that spring fertilization is not needed, there are some cases where it's a good idea, for instance, on very light, sandy soil. You also might wish to fertilize if you didn't fertilize the lawn at all last year.

Just be sure to buy fertilizer that has quite a bit of slow-release nitrogen, so it doesn't act fast, then disappear just as quickly. Look for the letters WIN on the label; they stand for water insoluble nitrogen, which means slow break-down that makes nutrients available gradually.

Pre-emergent herbicide, used to prevent crabgrass and other annual weeds should be applied in the Twin Cities area now, **IF** you have light, sandy soil, or a sunny, south-facing slope. Otherwise, it should be safe to wait another week or so. Remember to water the herbicide lightly into the soil to activate it. Some will dissipate if it's just left lying on the surface.

It's OK to prune leafy shrubs now, as long as you realize you'll be sacrificing the bloom on most of them. You might prefer to wait till after they blossomed before you prune. It won't harm the shrubs, and you'll be able to enjoy the color. Spiraea and hydrangea are major exceptions to that rule. Most people prune them quite heavily each spring; they'll bloom anyway, on new wood.

DIAL-U/Continued

People seem worried about the safety of landscape timbers; however, there's no evidence that timbers treated with CCA, Chromated Copper Arsenate, causes any harm to plants or soil. Be careful not to breath in any sawdust when cutting these timbers, and be sure to scrape off any salt/chemical deposits you see before using them. "Foundation grade" timbers have been heat treated to further ensure no breakdown of preservative in the soil.

If you're still leery about using preserved timbers, do your landscape construction with heartwood of cedar or redwood. It is far more costly, and lasts, perhaps, only half as long, but it has not been treated with anything. You could also use special interlocking concrete blocks instead of wood.

Moss grew very well last year, especially in shady and compacted sites. Ways to reduce moss include: rake it out, prune trees to allow more sunlight to reach the ground, core aerate if soil is compacted, fertilize twice a year, and take good care of the lawn so grass plants have a chance to compete. If you can't do anything about the shade, leave the moss alone. At least it's green!

Rabbit control—Although cute and cuddly, rabbits can do extensive damage to gardens. Rabbit control includes 3 tactics: exclusion, repellents, removal. Exclude rabbits from small garden plots with fences. A barrier 24 inches high of 3/4 to 1-1/2 inch mesh poultry wire will suffice. Bury or stake the fence a few inches into the ground to prevent animals from entering under the fence. Repellents help prevent rabbit damage from plants. Odor repellents such as Naphthalene, blood meal or bone oil may be used where animals hold their head close to the ground and until plant growth exceeds 3 to 4 inches. Taste repellents such as talcum powder and Z.I.P. are effective for any stage of plant growth. Removal of rabbits is controlled by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Enforcement. Always consult your local conservation officer ***before*** trapping or shooting rabbits.

Other common calls include broad-leafed weeds, transplanting, winter injury on evergreen shrubs, carpenter ants and pre-birch leafminer damage.

Cynthia Ash
Plant Pathology
Deborah Brown
Horticulture
Jeffrey Hahn
Entomology
Julie Wermerskirchen
Wildlife

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
AGRICULTURE

Department of Plant Pathology
University of Minnesota
495 Borlaug Hall
St. Paul MN 55108-6030