

Plant lovers' corner

Sprayers make a difference

DOVER, Del. - The type of sprayer you use may affect the effectiveness of your spraying and dusting programs around the home, yard, and garden. Sprayers are designed for applying three types of sprays - space, contact or surface, and a combination of contact and surface. Extension specialists in agricultural chemicals at the University of Delaware, have some pointers on different kinds of sprayers and their use.

Space sprayers are used to control odors and flying insects in and about the home. Very fine droplets are formed which remain in the air for a short period of time. This type of spraying may be done with a household

sprayer - the least expensive type. It holds a small amount of material and is easy to use. A pressurized container is a self-contained unit commonly used because of its convenience, especially when only a small quantity of spray is needed. Just depress the valve with your finger and you have a fog spray.

The garden hose sprayer has become one of the most popular types for surface sprays. It is inexpensive, easy to clean and convenient to use where a water line is available. You should use separate jars for applying herbicides and insecticides, however.

A trombone or slide pump type sprayer can be used with a two-gallon bucket for holding the spray material. This type is intermediate in cost and is especially good for spraying small trees and shrubs.

The compressed air sprayer is one of the most versatile kinds and may be used for either a surface spray or a space spray by merely changing or adjusting the nozzle. It may be purchased in sizes from one gallon up, with the two or three-gallon units the most popular. A tank with a large opening is best for easy cleaning.

For large areas, a knapsack sprayer may be your best choice. It is a compressed air sprayer designed to be carried on your back.

When spraying a small acreage, you may prefer to use a power sprayer with a small gasoline engine on a cart. Or, a unit that can be mounted on a garden tractor or mower may do the job.

The care given your sprayer will determine its life span. Tanks, jars or containers should be emptied and rinsed out with clean water after each use. And when possible, take the sprayer apart, especially nozzles and screens, and leave it in a safe place to dry.

Control Weeds On Paved Areas

MEDIA, Pa. - Paving materials such as brick and flagstone can be effectively and economically set in sand rather than in concrete. Paved areas so constructed are far better than large areas of concrete since rainfall penetrates through the cracks and rarely creates drainage problems. They can also be redesigned to meet changing needs. However, weeds can become a problem.

They would be quite easy to control with a wide range of materials if it wasn't for the possibility of the materials being washed to adjacent lawns or beds or penetrating through into the root zone of trees. Weed killers such as DCPA (Dacthal) and tribluralin (Treflan) would be quite safe to use on paved areas but would often be short lived and then would not be effective on established weeds. Some landscape gardeners use Stoddard's Solvent (also called carrot oil or Solvasol). This kills top growth and is most effectively applied on days when it is overcast. Since this is very similar to kerosene, there is a fire hazard during and for a short time after application. Applicators and others in the area shouldn't smoke. Better materials would be simazine (Princep), Amizine, Ammate X, or Karnex DW (diuron). These materials should prevent regrowth for a considerable time. However, they may wash into and kill lawn areas near walks if excessive rainfall occurs. The most promising herbicide for this is Roundup (glyphosate). It is currently labeled for use on noncrop areas and could be effectively and safely applied at monthly intervals. There would be little chance of damage to adjacent plants or trees whose roots are under the paved area.

Japanese beetles cost money

DOVER, Del. - The Japanese beetle is one product made in Japan that no one has ever bought, yet he's cost Americans millions of dollars, say Extension garden specialists.

This destructive little foreign import is a small oval-shaped insect, less than a half-inch long. It is a shiny, metallic green with coppery-brown wings. The body is ringed with small white spots along the sides and back.


The beetles begin to appear in early Summer on their favorite food plants. They may be quite numerous for about four to six weeks, then gradually disappear. Some stragglers may hang around until late October. The beetles are most active on hot, sunny days.

The pests attack wide variety of plants. They'll eat not only foliage, but also flowers, fruit and even corn silk.

Among the garden plants they especially like are tall marigolds, zinnias, grapes, raspberries, peaches, sweet corn, roses, rose of Sharon, birch elms, larch and willows.

Japanese beetles can be controlled by spraying or dusting valuable plants likely to be attacked. The insecticides Sevin, malathion, Diazinon and rotenone are all effective. Weekly treatments should be made for as long as the beetles are present.

There are also several natural controls of the Japanese beetle. Very dry Summer weather destroys many eggs and kills newly-hatched grubs. A wet summer usually means a serious beetle outbreak the following year. Natural enemies of the beetle, especially during the grub stage, include several insect parasites and a bacterial disease known as "milky disease." Birds, moles and skunks also feed on this pest.



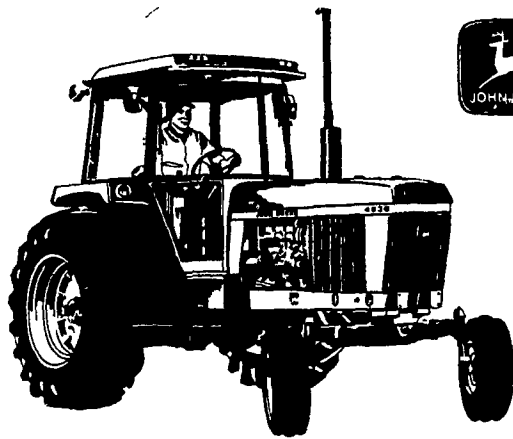
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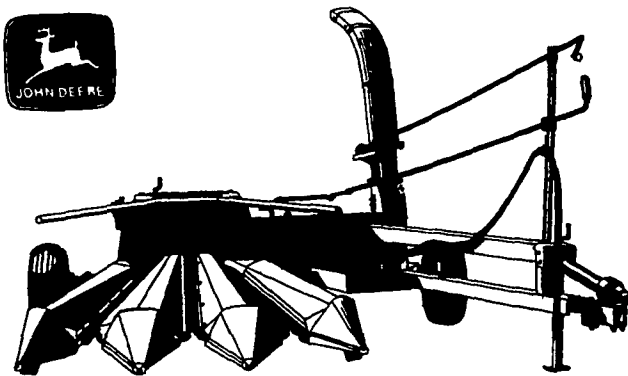


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