

**An Evaluation of Tame 2.4 EC for Control of Tropical Sod Webworm  
(*Herpetogramma phaeopteralis*)**

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**Introduction**

Most tropical sod webworm (TSWW), *Herpetogramma phaeopteralis* (Guenee) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) problems are associated with turf grown under high maintenance conditions. Grass blades with notched edges indicate TSWW activity. Tightly curled larvae or frass at the soil surface can confirm infestations of TSWW. Larvae leave trails of silk that are easily spotted in mornings when there is dew. Larvae can be flushed from infested turf with solutions of pyrethrins or liquid soap. Thresholds for insecticidal treatment vary from six to 16 larvae per 4.65 in<sup>2</sup> (30 cm<sup>2</sup>) depending on location and control strategy. Control strategies are influenced by general turf vigor, maintenance practices, and use patterns. Since sod webworm feeding occurs mostly at night and on cloudy days, insecticidal control applications are most effective when applied late in the day. Warm-season grasses may outgrow damage early in the growing season. However, severe damage to infested sod can occur when drought conditions exist. Sod webworms are most damaging in late summer when populations have increased and grass growth has slowed. This test was conducted to determine the efficacy of Tame 2.4 EC<sup>®</sup> alone and in combination with Orthene TTO 75 SP<sup>®</sup> for control of tropical sod webworms.

**Materials and Methods**

This study was conducted in a dwarf bermudagrass (Tifeagle) green located at the Texas A&M University Turfgrass Teaching and Research Field Laboratory in College Station, TX. The area was mowed 5 times weekly at 0.156 in. and irrigated every three days with 1 inch of water. This study was conducted on a newly constructed USGA specification golf green that had been infested with TSWW on several occasions since its construction in May of 1997.

Treatments were applied using a hand-held CO<sub>2</sub> pressurized sprayer. Spray volume was equivalent to 50 gallons per acre with pressure set at 25 psi. Individual plots measured 6' X 6' with 4 replications of each treatment arranged in a randomized complete block design. All treatments and rates are listed in Table 1. All treatments were applied on August 13, 1998. Percent control was estimated by visually assessing the damage resulting from untreated plots versus treated plots within the same replication 3 days after treatment (DAT), 7 DAT, 14 DAT, 21 DAT and 28 DAT.

**Results and Discussion**

This test was designed to be applied to an untreated area. However, due to an early season infestation the entire area was treated with Dursban 2 EC<sup>®</sup> at 1.0 lb. ai per

acre on June 05, 1998. By August 13, 1998 the area was infested with an adequate population of sod webworms to ensure noticeable treatment affects. Soon after the product was applied, infected larvae began to rise to the surface indicating good coverage and quick activity from all of the products and combinations of products. Good initial TSWW control was given by all of the products. Dursban 4 EC, Tame 2.4 EC at 0.3 lb. ai/A and Tame 2.4 EC in combination with Orthene 75 SP, at both rates, gave statistically equal control of TSWW. Tame 2.4 EC at 0.2 lb. ai/A gave fair control of TWSS with a single application. As time progressed, the treated plots began to recover from feeding damage and within 7 to 10 DAT most of the plots had fully recovered by 28 DAT (Fig. 1.). In figure 1, the increase in control of TSWW on the last few dates was actually an increase in recovery of the plots due to earlier control. This delayed phenomenon causes the percent control to appear to increase when it was probably decreasing.

Table 1. Control of tropical sod webworms on greens height Tifeagle bermudagrass

Treatment	Rate (lb. of ai/A)	Mean Percent Control	SNK Grouping*
Dursban 4EC	1.0 lb. ai/A	83	A
Tame 2.4 EC	0.3 lb. ai/A	82	A
Tame 2.4 EC + Orthene TTO 75SP	0.2 lb. ai/A 1.0 lb. ai/A	81	A
Tame 2.4 EC + Orthene TTO 75SP	0.3 lb. ai/A 1.0 lb. ai/A	79	A
Tame 2.4 EC	0.2 lb. ai/A	73	B
Untreated Check	0.0 lb. ai/A	09	C

\* Means with the same letter are not significantly different P>0.05

### Control of Sod Webworms

