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# CONSUMER INFORMATION SHEET

## BALL MOSS

Ball moss is a plant primarily found in an area bounded by Del Rio to Fredericksburg to College Station to Bay City to Corpus Christi and back to Del Rio. It has the distinctive look of a little fuzzy ball, thus its name.

Technically, it is considered an epiphyte, which means it has the capability of manufacturing its own food from moisture and nutrients taken from the air. Some would argue it does not cause the decline or death of its host plant. However, in high infestations, it can be observed that the host plant is simply suffocated to death or begins to decline. The infestation simply restricts the normal budding of leaves thereby reducing the amount of sunlight absorption and respiratory functions of the host plant. Obviously leaves are the life of a tree.

Reproduction is achieved with very small seeds that are produced by the mature plant. The extremely small seeds are scattered by the wind, attaching themselves to both rough and smooth surfaces. The plant can be seen growing on various surface's such as electrical lines, wooden fences, shrubs, and trees. As the seed begins to grow, it puts down a structure similar to roots. These are known as "hold fasts". The "hold fast" anchor the plant to the host surface.

Although there are several chemicals labeled for ball moss control, **JACK'S PEST MANAGEMENT,** currently uses one product in the control of ball moss. Kocide 3000 is the product name for cupric hydroxide and is applied as a foliar application to the ball moss. We use the label recommended rate of 3 pounds to 100 gallons of water continuously agitating the product while spraying. The Kocide begins working as soon as contact is made with the plant and will continue to be activated by significant rains for several months.

Due to the difficulty in achieving complete coverage, especially in heavily infested trees, **we recommend a follow-up treatment in one year**. In extreme cases, a third treatment may be recommended. Treatment is recommended from the first of February until Mid-May at the very latest. Several months after the application, the moss will develop a gray appearance. The flowering part of the plant begin to bend over and wither up. Because of the lack of decaying organisms on the bark of the tree, the "hold fasts" are slow to release the plant from the tree. This process can take from several months to a year or more. Once the "hold fasts" have significantly decayed, windstorms will usually blow the dead moss from the tree.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call **JACK'S PEST MANAGEMENT,** at (361) 293-5302. We appreciate your business.

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