

New Chemical Helps Give Weed Control

Salem—A new chemical that kills all types of weeds but spares the most tender corn shoot or germinating corn seed has passed tests for all corn-growing areas of Oregon.

Oregon State university agricultural experiment station reports practically 100 percent control of both broadleaf and grassy weeds in cornfields for a full growing season with the chemical, Atrazine.

Even hard-to-kill quackgrass that previously resisted selected control in crops was eradicated from cornfields in OSU experiments.

Best news, says OSU agronomist W. R. Furtick, is that Atrazine can be used when applied either before or after corn shoots emerge, depending upon local moisture or irrigation conditions.

The chemical recently received clearance by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use in cornfields after corn emerges, since it was found that no harmful chemical residue remains in the corn.

Atrazine was earlier cleared for pre-emergence treatment and was effective in Oregon field trials last year when properly used, Furtick said. Proper treatment requires good soil moisture at the surface to germinate weed seed. Another requirement is a good rain or sprinkler irrigation within two weeks after application to carry the chemical into the soil and activate it.

Poor Results Seen

Furtick said poor results were observed last year where growers applied the chemical after the growing season was over. In some cases, the ground had been worked too early, leaving a rough cloddy surface that lost soil moisture at time of planting corn.

Special treatment is re-

quired in low-rainfall areas of eastern Oregon where surface irrigation is more commonly used than is sprinkler irrigation. The recommendation for those areas is to apply pre-emergence spray, then disk or harrow it into the soil—not more than three inches deep—before planting the corn.

Harrowing should provide enough surface soil moisture to activate the chemical, the researcher explained.

A word of caution in low-rainfall areas is that Atrazine residue can remain in the soil into the second year and damage such row crops as sugar beets and small grains that might be used in rotation with corn.

Clearance of Atrazine as a post-emergence spray now gives more flexibility in adapting the chemical to Oregon's wide range of growing conditions.

The new ruling now makes it possible to wait and spray the weeds shortly after they emerge along with the corn, when weeds are in the two to three-leaf stage. Atrazine remaining in the soil will then kill the next weed crop that germinates following the first sprinkler irrigation.

Other new chemicals having shorter residual life than Atrazine are Randox T and Eptam that have given excellent control of most major weed pests of corn.

Growers are advised to check with their county extension agent for detailed instructions on use of Atrazine, Randox T, and Eptam as they may apply to growing conditions and the type of weed problems.

411 Cattle Sold At Midway Yard In Friday Sale

Eighty-three consignors sold 411 cattle, 35 hogs and 36 sheep during Midway auction yard's regular Friday sale.

Owner-Manager Bill Bray noted that the market continues active. There was no change from the previous week.

Light Angus steer calves averaging 449 pounds sold for \$28 per hundredweight and a pen of Hereford steers averaging 425 pounds brought \$26.10 per hundredweight. Other pens of good stock calves sold from \$23.50 to \$25.75.

Medium quality steers in the 400 to 600 pound bracket brought \$21 to \$23.

Holstein steers weighing 335 to 380 pounds brought \$20.10 to \$20.70. Those weighing 400 to 600 pounds brought \$18.50 to \$19.70 and 700 to 850 pound Holsteins went out at \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Good quality Hereford heifer calves weighing 340 to 450 pounds sold from \$22 to \$23.25. Heifers weighing 500 to 600 pounds brought \$20 to \$21.75.

Several Pens Sold

"We sold several pens of steer and heifer calves by the head, but since we don't know what they weighed, the price doesn't mean much in a market report," Bray remarked.

Good cows and calves sold for \$190 to \$217.50 per pair, common and medium single pairs \$157.50 to \$180 per pair. Eight head of registered Hereford bulls sold from \$250 to \$325 per head.

Veal were strong. One choice 240 pound calf sold at \$30. Others, choice \$25 to \$28.25. Medium to good calves brought \$23 to \$25. Bulls sold from \$19 to \$19.40.

Slaughter cows, Hereford cows \$15.50 to \$16.50. Holsteins, utility, \$15 to \$15.90. Cutter cows \$14 to \$14.90. Canners and light cutters \$12 to \$13.60.

Fat hogs brought \$18.20. Feeder pigs 70 to 100 pounds brought \$19 to \$19.80 per hundredweight, weaner pigs \$7.50 to \$13 per head and sows \$14.30 to \$15.20. Ewes with lambs brought \$12.50 per pair and odd head fat lambs brought \$13 per hundredweight.

"Often a 'steady' market appears to vary from week to week. This is because a report cannot show the variation in quality and weighing conditions of the animals," Bray explained.

This report is based on actual sales made at this yard. We do not exaggerate the prices or quote prices on no sales," Bray added.

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Farm & Garden

Turkey Grading Amendment Set For May Hearing

Salem — A public hearing to give turkey processors and others interested an opportunity to express their views on proposed regulations under the 1961 amendment to the Oregon turkey grade labeling law will be held in Salem.

The state department of agriculture, which administers the act, has set the hearing for Tuesday, May 9, at 1 p.m. in the conference room of the Agriculture building, 158 12th Street, N.E.

Under a 1961 law which carries an emergency clause, the state will permit turkey processors to apply their own plant grades, to be known as Processor Grade A, Processor Grade B or Processor Grade C. This legislation meets a need of small processors who could not afford to have continuous inspection and grading as heretofore required to meet the grade label provision of the 1959 law.

To Consider Label

The hearing will deal chiefly with form and wording of the grade label to be used by plants taking advantage of the processor-applied grades.

No processor may use the self-applied grades without approval and license from the department. The license to grade will be provided without cost inasmuch as these plants will already be under a state poultry meat dealers' license.

Persons unable to appear in Salem May 9 may express their views in writing in advance. These views should be directed to Dr. M. L. Houston, supervisor of state meat inspection, Agriculture building, Salem. Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained from the department.

Allergy Academy Gives State Free Status in Ragweed

Salem — No ragweed grains were found by the American Academy of Allergy in the Portland or Turner areas in 1960 according to the yearly report released to the State Department of Agriculture.

State units, however, in a pollen-spore survey did find grains of pollen on land outside the ragweed control area. The state set up 21 stations during the winter months. Those stations at which the grains were trapped include Redmond, 12 grains; Ontario, 1; Hood River, 1; John Day, 2.

Ragweed control by the state is practiced west of the Cascades which includes areas where the weed causes the most damage. Spraying is done periodically under supervision of the state department of agriculture at no cost to the land owner.

Endangers Health

The danger of ragweed lies not in its threat to crops but in its danger to public health. The weed produces a pollen to which seven to eight per cent of the people in Oregon are susceptible. It causes serious hay fever and related allergies. This pollen extends suffering through July, August, September and even into October.

County and other state agencies have cooperated with the department to keep western Oregon ragweed free. Public agencies spray the weed on lands under their jurisdiction. In 1955 the pollen and mold committee of the American Academy of Allergy offered assistance through pollen counting at various stations.

The SDA found the first ragweed infestation of this year on April 10 on a previously infested 35 acre field near Donald. The owner plans to work down the land and seed it, which will eliminate any problem until the normal spray period arrives.

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Estray Count Decrease Said Large For March

Salem — Estray count for March is down considerably from previous months with a total of 32 animals reported missing to the state department of agriculture.

One pony, one bull and two cows are included in the list which marks as missing 28 steers, heifers and calves.

Reports come from such areas as Murphy, Medford, Thief Valley Reservoir, Mt. Scott, Mitchell and Winston.

Treatment Told For Two Weeds By County Agent

EUGENE WINTERS
County Agent

Star thistle and tussock are two weeds that can be controlled this time of year by chemical means.

Yellow star thistle is widely distributed in the county occurring in cultivated fields, waste areas, fence lines, along roadsides and in vacant lots. This pest is an annual, usually growing up to a height of about two and a half feet. It will set seed after being mowed when only a few inches tall. It can be easily killed chemically when sprayed with 2, 4-D prior to flowering. One difficulty encountered in eradicating star thistle is that during spring and early summer seasons with frequent showers there are new seedlings germinating.

This situation may make more than one herbicide application necessary for control.

The county weed control program under the supervision of Ray Hubbell has achieved excellent results in the control of yellow star thistle in Jackson county road right-of-ways where 2, 4-D could be used.

Chemical Treatment

Use one pound of 2, 4-D amine in 50 gallons of water per acre. For best control the foliage should be thoroughly covered. The ester formulation is more effective, but volatilization hazards limit its use to areas free of desirable trees, shrubs and other susceptible broadleafed plants. This is true of the highly volatile esters and to a slightly lesser extent the low volatile materials. Read the directions on the chemical container before using the material in all cases.

Tussock, a member of the rush family, is the bunch type plant found in poorly drained areas throughout Jackson county. Under poor irrigation water management resulting in extreme flooding or ponding this weed can take over considerable areas in irrigated pastures. Other areas with a high water table condition due to seepage or seep springs can be infested with tussock.

For long time control it is necessary to correct the poor drainage conditions. Temporary or annual control may be had with spot treatments using 2, 4-D at the rate of 1½ pounds in 50 gallons of water for spot treatment. It is necessary to add two gallons of diesel oil or a spreader sticker to insure wetting of plants. Thorough foliage coverage is necessary. The amine form of 2, 4-D is preferable to ester where volatilization and drift may harm desirable plants.

The container label should be thoroughly read and fully understood and the directions followed. The toxicity of 2, 4-D to mammals is considered to be low, but care should be taken not to spray desirable foliage.

Portland Butchers Resume Negotiations

Portland—Contract negotiations between representatives of Meat Cutters Local 143 and 14 meat-processing companies in the Portland area resumed here Monday.

The union, representing about 300 workers, and management have been negotiating for seven weeks. The meat cutters' contract was up Sunday.

Instructions Given On Bedding Plants

By J. VERNON MARSHALL
Note — For Rogue Valley Nurseriesmen and Growers' Asso., and Oregon Asso. of Nurseriesmen.

April and May — Spring is here, this is bedding plant season. The earlier we start our gardens, the better our gardens will be, that is, if we will adhere to these simple suggestions.

Easter is out of the way, the orchard heating season about to an end (we hope). I would like to point out a few plants, and some of the culture, in the line of general gardening. It should be safe now to start setting out your geraniums providing you continue to listen to the frost warning and cover if the key station temperature will be 32 degrees or less. For geraniums, make use of heavy soil, and for best results feed regular every month through the growing season with a good organic food, such as Liqueux 10-10-5. Feed leaves as well as roots. Leaves need fertilizer, and as a matter of fact, some plants (such as camellias) take in half their food and moisture through the foliage. They will bloom better. They will be better plants.

Now is also the time to set out salvia, ageratum, asters, alyssum, phlox, lobelia, marigold, petunias, portulaca, snap, stocks, verbena, zinnias and many other flowering plants.

In vegetables, start Brussels sprouts, cabbage, lettuce, peppers, tomatoes, keeping your frost in mind for some items, such as tomatoes, marigolds, peppers, salvia and ageratum. You will not have to worry about freezing petunias or cabbage or lettuce or most of the other items listed. The temperature would have to get down to around 26 degrees for an hour or more. It is not so much how cold it gets that does the damage, it is how long it stays cold.

In the fertilizing field, it seems that conditions are changing rapidly. It seems almost as if the automobile has not only done away with the horse, but has also driven the cows away from the gardener's neighborhood. There are really more cows in the country than ever, only they are distributed differently. For the gardener, the cost of manure is almost prohibitive. Gradually some of us are beginning to realize that we have to find substitutes with which to supply the essential plant foods, such as nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, one or the other of which — if not all three — is usually lacking in most soils.

We are beginning to realize that we are creeping in the dark as far as knowing the first thing about what the soil in our particular section lacks in essential plant food requirements. Nor do we intelligently go about applying fertilizer.

We look upon a bag of 10-10-5 fertilizer with suspicion just because it doesn't look like a yard of manure. We don't realize that the food values in that bag are far greater than what is actually available in that yard of manure. Please, believe me, gardeners, it is greater, it is cheaper, it is better, and best of all without weed seeds.

Your nursery's and garden stores have this wonderful fertilizer all stacked up for you, with the correct analysis, to fit the needs of the plant that you are growing. There is no guessing, you can't go wrong, as long as you follow directions. So — let's progress with the times, and be sure of a good garden. And again — gardeners — Don't forget the insects, there are plenty of insecticides and fungicides in the nurseries and garden stores that are made to fit your particular need.

Pine Moth Search Starts in Salem

Salem — Residential check for the European pine shoot moth moved into the Salem area April 21 with the finding of this pest on a commercial planting in the Salem area. The pest, now found for the second time in Oregon, is a threat to stands of timber pine in the state.

A "hold" order was placed on all pine stock in the nursery where the moth was found, according to Hugh Taylor, chief of the plant division of the department of agriculture. Taylor says the stock can either be destroyed or fumigated on an experimental basis. Fumigation of the stock would mean it must be held under fine screen enclosures for at least 15 months. Fumigation methods are still in the experimental stage.

Department, state and federal forestry officials, Oregon State university, and pine industry representatives conferred in Salem on how to deal with the new outbreak.

Concern of officials and industry centers in damage which will result to Oregon's commercial pine stands if the moth gains a foothold in this state.

USDA Recognizes Laboratory Work

Salem—Mrs. Ellen J. Martin, serologist in charge of the state-federal disease control laboratory in the Agriculture building, Salem, has received a certificate of merit for outstanding service.

The award was made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for demonstration of "superior knowledge of the infectious diseases of livestock and the tests conducted for their control and eradication," says Dr. A. G. Beagle, who made the presentation for USDA. Dr. Beagle is federal veterinarian in charge in Oregon.

The efficiency with which Mrs. Martin has conducted these laboratory tests has contributed materially to the knowledge of the extent of leptospirosis in the state and the state certification for brucellosis, Dr. Beagle said. Mrs. Martin will shortly conduct tests to assist in the control of anaplasmosis which affects primarily mature cattle.

Mrs. Martin was in charge of the cooperative laboratory in Ontario for almost three years and has been in charge of the Salem laboratory since September 1959. The laboratory is operated by the federal and state departments of agriculture.

Hog Cholera Halt Made At Source

Salem — Hog cholera has been broken out in Oregon for the second time this year but, according to state department of agriculture veterinarians, has been stopped at the source.

An early diagnosis caught the disease, found recently in a herd of 70 animals on a farm near Woodburn. Loss of two pigs was first reported, with 14 other losses in less than two weeks. On April 19 all the animals were vaccinated.

Most of the animals on the premises when the outbreak began were unvaccinated except for a large group of pigs purchased at an auction yard. These animals had been vaccinated with modified live virus vaccine at the yard. None of this group showed symptoms of the disease.

Farm Quarantined

The farm has been quarantined until further notice.

First outbreak of this disease earlier in the year was also in the Woodburn area and was also stopped before it could spread.

Hog cholera is the most serious disease of swine in the United States, destroying more hogs than all other diseases combined. If it appears in acute form, hogs sicken and die quickly. If less severe, they may be sick for weeks before they die. Incubation period for pigs exposed to the disease ranges from three to seven days. The cholera affects only hogs, not man.

DAHLIAS

Dahlia may be planted now. For best results choose a sunny location and keep the plants well watered. Plant the tubers about five inches deep in a horizontal position with the eye up.

Well rotted manure mixed in with the soil will provide a good source of fertilizer. To prevent future root damage, place the stakes in the ground while planting. If a bushy plant is desired, pinch the top when the plant is about a foot high.

HEATHER

To keep your heather plants compact and producing an abundance of flowers, shear them back as soon as the flowers fade.

AILANTHUS

A money-back introductory offer on the Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) has been received by many residents. Some additional information on this tree is presented.

The Ailanthus has been classified as a short-lived "weed" tree. The male trees produce an intensely disagreeable odor when blooming and the female trees bear unsightly seedpods into late winter. The Ailanthus has a tendency to sucker freely and its roots will penetrate underground pipes, wells and cisterns, giving the water a nauseating taste.

Suddenly . . . It's Spring!

Old Man Winter has left us again. The weather is warm-

Garden Tips

By John W. McLoughlin
County Extension Agent

Now is the time when people begin to inspect their backyards, with a view to putting them in order for the Outdoor Months . . . and, if you're like us, you're generally surprised at what you find there.

One thing we found again this year, which has turned up often in the past, is a great need for Community Beautification.

Community Beautification makes sense from every viewpoint: a beautiful community is a pleasant, happy place in which to live; it's a place where people like to do business — to earn and to buy their daily bread.

The National Garden bureau, which helped a section of the Niagara Industrial district, New York, to give itself a face lift, has promised us their plans . . . We'll tell you all about them shortly.

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Many Inquiries Made On Commodity Groups

Salem—Other states continue to show interest in Oregon's community commission programs. State agencies or officials of producer groups in Michigan, Florida and Washington have recently requested detailed information from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Some interest in whether or not Oregon's act provides for issuance of marketing orders is evident in the recent request. Paul T. Rowell of the department staff has advised marketing orders are not part of self-help programs.