

Herald and News FARM NEWS

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Farm Editor



Soil Pest Control Found, But Method Costs \$100 an Acre

A new insecticide—chlorinated propane-propylene—has virtually eliminated a heretofore troublesome soil pest, symphylids, in large scale field tests carried out under the direction of an OSG experiment station entomologist, H. E. Morrison. But the price is pretty high. Symphylids, small, white, and many-legged, are difficult to control using tillage methods or other chemicals, trial results show. The pest is found throughout Oregon and is particularly bothersome in such intensive crops as bulbs, mint, vegetables, nursery crops and flowers, and in home gardens.

Effect on soil is temporary. It is possible to plant a cover crop, for example, 10 days after soil treatment, and Morrison has successfully planted ryegrass two days after a soil injection was made. The applicator used in the trials releases the chemical as a liquid at a soil depth of 8 or more inches. Injection spacings are nine inches apart. Because symphylids are small, it is necessary to pulverize the soil well before injections are attempted. Otherwise, Morrison states, the chemical which turns to gas upon release will stay in the air spaces between clods. The symphylids, meanwhile, will stay in the clods and survive.

Although the recommended control program will cost upwards of \$100 per acre, it will pay the entomologist believes, where high value per acre crops are grown. Grain, grass and legume crops, meanwhile, although undoubtedly damaged somewhat, normally get fall or spring growth during a period when the symphylids are inactive. The pests work in soil surface root areas during warm weather months.

To control symphylids using chlorinated propane-propylene, Morrison recommends that it be injected into the soil at a rate of 35 gallons or 350 pounds per acre at a time when the soil temperature is 55 degrees higher. Since the chemical will kill all existing vegetation, the best control period is during August or September after the year's crop has been removed, Morrison points out.

Henry Baker, Ione, was elected president of the Oregon Wheat Growers league, and The Dalles was selected as host city for the 1950 annual meeting Saturday at the first annual meeting in Heppner. Baker succeeds Paulsen Kaseberg, Wasco, as president. Vice president will be Donald McKinnis, Imbler, who served as chairman of the league's production and transportation committee during the past year.

Bill, the raccoon portion of the Bill Sherman family, is back home. He tasted and they can have it. The pet 'coon broke out of his pen at the Sherman's mountain cabin. But three weeks later came a scratching at the door. Outside, the Shermans saw Bill, bloody, torn and whimpering. The family's theory: Bill tangled with wild cousins who didn't take to his sleek, home-fed appearance. Because dark red looks just like the blackest black to the camera tube, that color often is used as a substitute in television.

Wheat Man Wins Soil Award

A 37-year-old Gilliam county wheat farmer to whom soil conservation is almost a religion, Virgil Larson, Mikkalo, was named "Conservation Man of the Year" Saturday at the annual meeting of the Oregon Wheat Growers league in Heppner.

Larson, who lives in an area which receives 9 to 12 inches of annual rainfall, owns a 4407 acre ranch which includes 3354 acres of cropland.

When Larson bought the place five years ago, it was run-down and badly eroded. His program included a switch-over from the old summer fallow system to stubble mulch soon after he moved onto the ranch. Today, he practices cross slope cultivation and uses deep furrow drills. He has four miles of diversion terraces. Points and ridges have all been seeded down to grass in an effort to prevent soil loss due to wind and water erosion.

Call of the Wild Is Too Wild

PASSADENA, Calif. (AP)—Bill, the raccoon portion of the Bill Sherman family, is back home. He tasted and they can have it. The pet 'coon broke out of his pen at the Sherman's mountain cabin. But three weeks later came a scratching at the door. Outside, the Shermans saw Bill, bloody, torn and whimpering. The family's theory: Bill tangled with wild cousins who didn't take to his sleek, home-fed appearance.

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Basin, National Spud Shipments Move Slow With 1949 Harvest

Total potato shipments from the Klamath Basin this year as of December 1 were only 2171 carloads, according to Ross Aubrey, potato inspector, which is about 1000 cars behind shipments in 1948.

Figures show 3133 carloads were shipped as of December 1, 1948. However, national shipments also show less movement this year. Movement of the 1949 crop as of December 1, shows only 133,276 carloads moved while 182,232 cars had been shipped by the same time last year.

Total shipment for 1948 throughout the nation was 314,589 carloads. Shipments for this year are not expected to reach that mark.

Aubrey said shipments this season were 1626 carloads by rail, 381 by truck, and 164 taken by the government.

This compares to the 1948 season as 2074 by rail, 421 by truck and 638 for the government as of December 1.

Aubrey explained that this year's shipments are falling behind the 1948 total because the government took so many of their allotted loads

during November and early December last season.

"About 9000 carloads remain to be shipped at present this season,"

Aubrey continued, "while only 7000 remained last year."

Daily potato shipments are run on the market page of The Herald and News with comparisons to the 1948 season.

The Langell Valley grange No. 915 met recently and elected the following officers for the coming year: master, Ray Marchant; overseer, George Fernand; lecturer, Miriam Potucek; steward, James Romitved; assistant steward, Joe Potucek; chaplain, Christine Brown; treasurer, Martin Brown; secretary, Ed Grallan; gatekeeper, Chris Hood; Ceres, Rosa Meeker; Pomona, Edna Hood; Flora, Helen Derry; lady assistant steward, Betty Staller, and members of the executive committee, Bill Novotny, Frank Brown and Richard Derry.

Dwarf smut, a problem in Washington wheat areas for more than 20 years, has shown up in Oregon during the past two years, and it presents a distinct menace to the industry which must not be overlooked, stated Dr. C. S. Holton, Pullman, Wash., during the first annual meeting of the Oregon Wheat Growers league Friday in Heppner.

The USDA agronomist said that dwarf smut, unlike other smut strains, cannot be controlled through seed treatment.

"Once established in the soil,"

Dr. Holton said, "the spores will live for many years. Thus, whether

seed is treated or not, the spores re-infect seed." Dwarf smut was noted in Union county this year, and fields were examined where 50 per cent of the heads of the popular Elgin wheat variety were smutted. As well as through the transport of infected grain, dwarf smut spores are spread through the air, the agronomist stated.

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