



**SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE** Ezra Taft Benson gives a wave and a confident smile after defending his new farm program which has the support of the administration. The program, which is under fire on Capitol Hill, calls for lowering of minimum price supports on basic commodities.

## County Agent Reports Farm News Briefed From The County Agent Radio Programs

By J. D. VERTREES

This time of the winter is one of the best for applying soil sterilants. Most of the recommended materials can be used at various times of the year, but these winter conditions seem to be the easiest and most effective, for good soil sterilization. Soil sterilants need moisture to take them down to the root zone and with our winter snows and the spring rains, this job is done for us.

Weed control by killing the soils permanently has several good uses around the farm and home, which cannot be done effectively by other means. One good use is for fire prevention around buildings. A fire strip of clean soil will safeguard much property and also make the area much neater in appearance. Fence rows can be cleaned up and maintained to cut down the spread of weeds which often start in fence rows and spread to crops in the field. Many times, weedy irrigation ditches seriously cut the effective flow of water, causing a loss of water and irrigation time; chemical cleaning and control of ditchbank weeds can be effectively done. Roadways and driveways can be permanently cleaned with these chemical sterilants. Another popular use of these chemicals has been the permanent control of spots of noxious weeds in cropland. Treated areas usually come back in productivity within a few years as the chemicals leach out of the soil.

Several good chemicals are on the market and they each have some advantages and disadvantages. Lets look at the characteristics and uses of some of them. CMU, known as the Telvar compounds of which there are two, is a nonvolatile, noncorrosive, nonflammable, relative insoluble powder. Although higher in cost per pound, the rates per acre make it economical to use. Rates in general vary from 20 to 80 pounds per acre depending on the soil moisture and soil structure. CMU being fairly insoluble remains mostly in the top few inches of soils and will not leach down to the tap roots of the deep rooted weeds. This makes it very valuable for maintenance of weed free areas where the annual weeds and grasses are the problems. CMU has been demonstrated to not be the most effective for deeprooted perennial weeds in most types of soils. Periodic cleanup with this sterilant is very effective.

Chlorate-Borate chemicals are used either alone or in combinations. Chlorate as a straight

chemical is a fire hazard under some conditions. It is a soluble material and effectively controls deep rooted weeds as it leaches into the root zone. Being fairly low in price, the rates of three or four pounds per square rod allows its wide usage. Borates also are soluble and move into the root zones deep in the soil, and have the advantage of being nonpoisonous and nonflammable. However, it takes a much greater rate of these chemicals to give good control is most cases.

Manufacturers have combined the two chemicals, chlorates and borates for safe, efficient and economical soil sterilants. The addition of the borate will minimize the fire hazard of the chlorates while they in turn will increase the effectiveness of the borates. Rates of three to six pounds per square rod give good sterilization in most soil conditions. These materials will leach down and get the deep rooted weeds. However, with the soil moisture leaching the chemical downwards, it will soon leave an unprotected area at the surface where the annual weeds will return.

Manufacturers have also gone further and combined the chlorates, for deep rooted kill, the borates for safety from fire hazard, and the CMU compounds for annual weed control on the surface of the soils. These three compounds are combined in mixed trade name products. Various combinations are produced by different manufacturers and are recommended at different rates for different problems.

In general, chlorates, borates and CMU compounds are not effective in peat soils with high organic content. Peat soils prevent the action of these sterilants. Highly alkaline soils also cut down the effectiveness of these chemicals and they must be used at much higher rates.

Several new chemicals are on the market which will, in some cases, replace these older, but still efficient sterilants. Such materials as dalapon, radapon and simizin have specific uses. Since they are still new, all application possibilities are not known yet and the cost is high under some conditions. With increased usage, more will be known regarding the effectiveness and probably a reduction in cost will result in the future. Materials, such as simizin, will vary tremendously in results de-

pending upon the soil types present.

Dry application of the chlorates, borates, and CMU is the easiest and most rapid method of application. Spread by hand or with a mechanical spreader, effort should be made to cover the area as evenly as possible. These materials can also be mixed with water for even application. Chlorates borate mixtures will dissolve at the rate of about three or four pounds per gallon of water. CMU must be mixed at the rate of one pound in three or four gallons of water since it is insoluble. Rates recommended for each chemical are usually found on the containers for application in solution. Dry application taking advantage of rainfall and snow to send the chemicals into the root zone is still the easiest and most economical method.

## Work Benches Easy To Build

If you're a "do-it-yourself" fan who has thought about constructing your own work bench, this is the right time of year to get started.

The bench requires few materials and can be assembled and finished quickly with one or two power tools and several hand tools.

Choose a spot in either your basement or your garage, preferably a corner in which you can establish your do-it-yourself headquarters.

Check the lighting situation carefully. Hook up a light directly above the spot where the table will stand. This light should be wired independently of the general room wiring system. In case of a fuse blow-out, you won't have

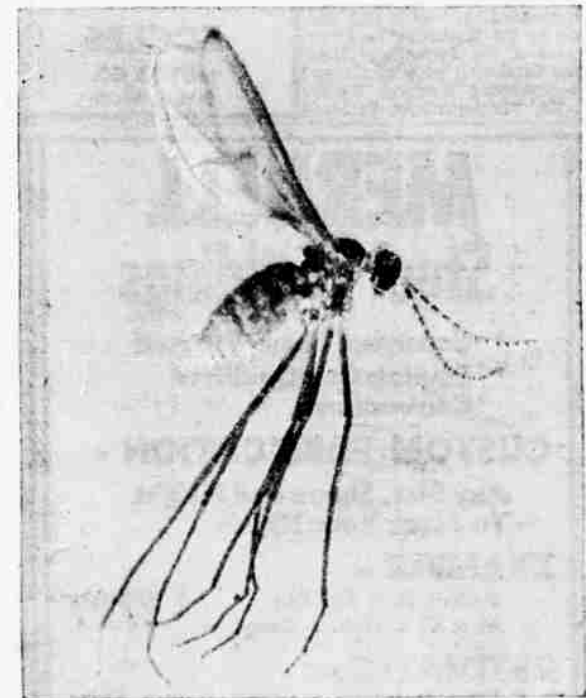
to grope around in the dark.

Plan on a power outlet on either the right-hand side of the table or on the wall at that side. Naturally, if you're left-handed place these outlets on the left-hand side.

An old table converts readily into the basic framework of a work bench. Use one that has sturdy legs. If the underpinning is wobbly, brace the legs solidly.

You'll need plenty of work and storage space for your projects and your tools. This calls for a table top at least 30 inches deep and about 50 inches wide. A 3/4 inch sheet of plywood fills the need well if no other top is available.

Position the new top on the table. Allow at least 2 inches of overhang for clamp-on attachments like vises.



**IMMIGRANT.** A privileged character is this *Aphidoletes thompsoni*, who figuratively wears a "Don't Swat Me" label. The skooter is one of 1,800 imported from Czechoslovakia and colonized in Oregon and Washington to combat the balsam woolly aphid which causes gout-like swellings in silver fir. This unusual close-up photo of one of the mosquitoes in flight was taken by the Pacific Northwest Forest and Ranger Experiment Station.

## Stock District Numbers Up

Robert J. Steward, director of the State Department of Agriculture, signed orders this month which officially name livestock districts existing in Morrow and Linn counties.

Livestock districts are created areas in which cattle, horses, mules, asses, goats and swine cannot run at large.

All the area within the boundaries of Morrow County was declared a livestock district, or restricted zone. Four livestock districts previously created by local option exist in Linn County, in addition to two large open range areas in which it is legal for animals to run free.

Both orders point out that no livestock districts exist in public roads passing through federal land or in land subject to the laws of Oregon which is entirely enclosed by federal land, unless otherwise provided by federal laws and regulations.

In addition to a study of state laws and county records, the department held public hearings in Albany and in Heppner before reaching its decision as to the existence of livestock districts in Linn and Morrow counties.

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1952 CHEVROLET 2 ton 157" wheel base 4 speed trans. and 2 speed axle. 8:25-20 10 ply tires.	<b>\$1095</b>
1951 INTERNATIONAL L185 3 ton with 5 speed main and 3 speed Brown-Lipe. 90% 900-20 tires.	<b>\$2495</b>
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