

10,200 Ragweed Infected Acres In Oregon Sprayed During 1958 Control Plan

The State Department of Agriculture, in its second yearly round of the fight against ragweed, applied control measures to 10,200 infected acres in western Oregon during the 1958 spraying season.

This included 812½ acres in Marion County; 304 in Polk; 12 in Washington; 101½ in Benton; 1,500 in Jackson; 6,576 in Josephine; 10 in Lane; 30 in Yamhill; 20 in Multnomah; and 825 in Clackamas. Two of these counties had been reported ragweed-free last year — Multnomah and Yamhill.

The first actual spraying this year was done in an area south-east of Salem on June 5. Because of cropping practices, all infestations in a county couldn't be treated during a continuous period. So George Moose, ragweed control supervisor, set up a rotation schedule whereby the operation alternated weekly between the northern and southern parts of western Oregon (the control area). This system allowed the crew and equipment to operate continuously and generally to cover the areas at somewhere near the optimum state of weed maturity.

Continuous spraying followed through September 25 when all known infestations had received some treatment.

Jackson County officials again in 1958 agreed to do the ragweed control work in their area on a contract basis. This, with two commercial contracts in Josephine County and two state-owned sprayers (an additional sprayer was purchased in late July when two new infestations were located in Josephine County) made it possible to treat all areas.

Moose said a contract was also let in Marion County to hand pull ragweed in six acres of strawberries where spraying would have damaged the crop.

Surveys were conducted in many parts of western Oregon where infestations were suspected. The pollen count method was used in the Grants Pass, Cave Junction and Eugene areas.

To make this type of survey, petroleum jelly-coated slides are exposed for 48 hours in a specially constructed slide stand on a relatively high building where pollen could normally be expected in some quantities. The slides are stained and scanned by a technician who picks out the ragweed from other pollen grains and reports the number present.

Slides were exposed from August 15 to September 2 — at the peak pollen season in the area. No ragweed grains were found on slides exposed in Grants Pass and Cave Junction which suggests that all the larger infestations have been located and adequately treated, Moose said. The results of the Eugene slide survey are not yet available. The Portland Allergy Clinic in cooperation with the American Academy of Allergy is scanning all slides exposed under the 1958 program.

Prior to the 1958 ragweed season the weed was not believed to be a serious agricultural pest. But this year one infestation in Josephine County caused the loss of a seven-acre oat crop — ragweed stood approximately six inches higher than the oats and outnumbered the cereal plants eight to one. Approximately one acre was cut for silage and the rest of the crop plowed down as the volume of green ragweed foliage prevented the use of a combine in the field. Moose is now undertaking the same type of educational program he did in 1957 — familiarizing as many people as possible with ragweed, its detrimental effects, control measures, infestation reporting and the difference between ragweed and tansy ragwort. Last year he spoke and showed slides to approximately 1,600 persons, in addition to radio talks and a television appearance.

Underground Cell Tests Radiation

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI)—If all goes well with experiments on mice, dogs and monkeys, scientist Dr. Richard Overman will come up with new information on the effects of radiation.

Dr. Overman and his staff of scientists are working on an Army project with \$95,000 contributed through the Surgeon General's office.

Radiation tests will be made in an underground facility with concrete walls 20 inches thick. The radiation room will be 37 feet long and 22 feet wide.

Special safety features include a door that automatically locks when the radiation source—a thimble-size lump of Cobalt 60—is "on."

Dr. Overman is professor of clinical physiology at the University of Tennessee Medical Units here. He is senior investigator on the project. He said his staff will study the effects of intermittent, low-level radiation on animals.

The animals will receive a "lifetime" dose of radiation in the course of a week and then studied for possible changes in body functions and processes.



A SPECIAL WELCOME WAGON CALL was made on the occasion of the formal dedication and opening of the military housing units for Kingsley Air Force Base personnel on November 4, 1958. Welcome Wagon sponsors gave a shower of housewarming gifts to the occupants of the first house, Sgt. and Mrs. Virgil Mast and daughters, Victoria, 6, Marcia, 10, and Kathryn, 8.

DOUBLE PLAY

BUFFALO, N. Y. (UPI) — Ben Trawinski had two important obligations in one night but he fulfilled them perfectly. Pitcher Trawinski had to be in uniform at 6:30 p.m. to take the mound in a softball game. National Guardsman Trawinski had to be in uniform for a Guard meeting at 8 p.m. the same evening. Trawinski made short work of his pitching shores—a no-hit, no-run victory. He was right on time for his military duties.

GENEROUS PUMPS

WATERBURY, Conn. (UPI) — A check of 175 gas pumps at service stations here disclosed that 25 of them were giving customers more gasoline than showed on the meters.

CALL THE COPS

GLASTONBURY, Conn. (UPI) — Donald C. Hotchkiss parked his car in front of the police station, returned to find it stolen. He is a member of the Police Commission.

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California's Water Supply Said Good

By United Press International

The California Department of Water Resources says there will be plenty of water to go around next summer even if the rains are below normal this winter.

The agency says there is enough water currently held in reservoirs in the state to assure adequate water supplies.

Carryover storage in 42 reservoirs in the central valley amounts to about 3,800,000 acre feet. That's about two million acre feet. That's than last year at this time.

The agency adds that storage in all other areas of the state is above 1957. Rainfall last winter was about 170 per cent of average.

The stored water may prove to be a blessing. The first few months of this rain season have proved to be extremely dry.

The water department says total runoff to the ocean from California's north coastal area last winter was about 60 million acre feet. That's enough to supply the ultimate requirement of the entire state for a year.

The chairman of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute has advised California farmers to integrate their production or face disintegration of their economic position.

D. Harry Love spoke at the 40th California Farm Bureau Federation Convention in San Jose.

Love explains that integration comes about by combining two or more stages of production or marketing under a single management.

Love told the 2,500 convention delegates that "integration offers farmers the opportunities to gain economic equality with other businesses."

Other speakers at the convention also praised integration. They predicted that it would affect nearly every area of agricultural production . . . from the livestock industry to the deciduous fruit industry.

An economist for the University of California Agricultural Extension Service, Kenneth Farrell, says an overall decline in feed grain prices can be expected as the 1959 crops of corn and milo reach seasonal peaks.

However, Farrell says 1959 price supports for feed grains in California probably will not decline as much as the national average.

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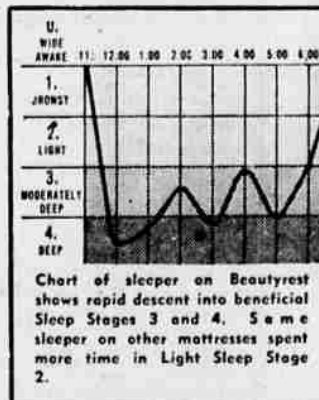


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