

MN 2000  
LIL 65

# Current Information Letter

For the Information of County Extension Agents and Extension Workers Only  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION—PAUL E. MILLER, DIRECTOR

File for Future Reference—Complete Index Will Be Furnished Annually

October 8  
1943

UNIVERSITY FARM  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
DOCUMENTS

No. 00065

OCT 4 1943

ST. PAUL CAMPUS LIBRARIES

FILE UNDER: WEEDS

Use of Borax as an Herbicide -- Report of the Minnesota Agricultural

## Experiment Station Weed Committee

While the trials with borax as a weed eradicator have not been conducted long enough to give final information, trials made in several counties lead to certain conclusions.

The Agricultural Mesh Borax and the special concentrates borax known as Borascu are free from dust and are ideal for applying in the dry form, particularly with a spreader. Borax does not dissolve readily in water so it cannot be applied as a spray. Animals will not eat it and its use obviates the poison and fire hazards of sodium chlorate.

Borax has given uniformly good results in the eradication of leafy spurge and poison ivy. Although the final answers are not known, our research indicates that 10 pounds of borax per square rod will prove effective in destroying poison ivy and 15 pounds are sufficient to destroy leafy spurge.

Field bindweed has been more difficult to control under all conditions. In some cases all plants were destroyed with a 10-pound per square rod application while in other cases a complete kill was not secured with a 20-pound application. It is well to note, however, that in some cases as much as 5 to 6 pounds of sodium chlorate may fail to give a complete kill of bindweed. Considering all angles, we are recommending the use of 20 pounds of borax per square rod when applied to field bindweed.

Information is not complete on Canada and perennial sow thistles. It appears that from 15 to 20 pounds should be used on these weeds.

It is believed that borax applications will not result in as long a period of soil sterility as chlorate although this point is not definitely established and is being studied at the present time.

Both Agricultural Mesh Borax and Borascu may be secured from C. B. Lyon and Bro., Inc., 2303 Hampden Avenue, St. Paul, or the Farm Bureau Service Co., 101 Fairfield Avenue, St. Paul. The F.O.B. St. Paul prices are as follows:

DO NOT DISTRIBUTE  
DO NOT DISPLAY

Material in this letter is for your individual guidance and background information only. Must be kept confidential.

DO NOT QUOTE  
DO NOT SHOW

Agricultural Mesh:	Carload lots--40 tons or more. . .	\$45.00	per ton
	Ton lots . . . . .	56.00	" "
	Less than ton lots . . . . .	61.00	" "
Borascu:	Carload lots . . . . .	\$35.00	" "
	Ton lots . . . . .	46.00	" "
	Less than ton lots . . . . .	51.00	" "

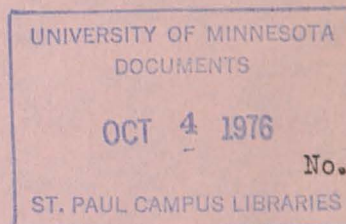
Borascu contains 2% less borax than the Agricultural Mesh grade. We have not tested the Borascu, since it is a new product; but we believe that the much lower cost will justify its use. It should be practically as effective as the Agricultural Mesh grade. On a comparative ton lot cost basis the Borascu compares with chlorate as follows:

4 lbs. of Sodium Chlorate at 8 cents per pound	= 32 cents
20 " " Borascu at 2.3 cents per pound	= 46 cents
3 " " Sodium Chlorate at 8 cents per pound	= 24 cents
10 " " Borascu at 2.3 cents per pound	= 23 cents

With the heavier applications the borax will be higher in cost but certain advantages in its use may offset the price differential.

Applications are most effective when made in the fall. There is still plenty of time to make treatments and the research group will be glad to learn of the results secured where agents make trials.

October 8  
1943



WEEDS

Use of Borax as an Herbicide -- Report of the Minnesota Agricultural  
Experiment Station Weed Committee

While the trials with borax as a weed eradicator have not been conducted long enough to give final information, trials made in several counties lead to certain conclusions.

The Agricultural Mesh Borax and the special concentrates borax known as Borascu are free from dust and are ideal for applying in the dry form, particularly with a spreader. Borax does not dissolve readily in water so it cannot be applied as a spray. Animals will not eat it and its use obviates the poison and fire hazards of sodium chlorate.

Borax has given uniformly good results in the eradication of leafy spurge and poison ivy. Although the final answers are not known, our research indicates that 10 pounds of borax per square rod will prove effective in destroying poison ivy and 15 pounds are sufficient to destroy leafy spurge.

Field bindweed has been more difficult to control under all conditions. In some cases all plants were destroyed with a 10-pound per square rod application while in other cases a complete kill was not secured with a 20-pound application. It is well to note, however, that in some cases as much as 5 to 6 pounds of sodium chlorate may fail to give a complete kill of bindweed. Considering all angles, we are recommending the use of 20 pounds of borax per square rod when applied to field bindweed.

Information is not complete on Canada and perennial sow thistles. It appears that from 15 to 20 pounds should be used on these weeds.

It is believed that borax applications will not result in as long a period of soil sterility as chlorate although this point is not definitely established and is being studied at the present time.

Both Agricultural Mesh Borax and Borascu may be secured from C. B. Lyon and Bro., Inc., 2303 Hampden Avenue, St. Paul, or the Farm Bureau Service Co., 101 Fairfield Avenue, St. Paul. The F.O.B. St. Paul prices are as follows:

Agricultural Mesh:	Carload lots--40 tons or more. . .	\$45.00	per ton
	Ton lots . . . . .	56.00	" "
	Less than ton lots . . . . .	61.00	" "
 Borascu:	 Carload lots . . . . .	 \$35.00	 " "
	Ton lots . . . . .	46.00	" "
	Less than ton lots . . . . .	51.00	" "

Borascu contains 2% less borax than the Agricultural Mesh grade. We have not tested the Borascu, since it is a new product; but we believe that the much lower cost will justify its use. It should be practically as effective as the Agricultural Mesh grade. On a comparative ton lot cost basis the Borascu compares with chlorate as follows:

4 lbs. of Sodium Chlorate at 8 cents per pound	= 32 cents
20 " " Borascu at 2.3 cents per pound	= 46 cents
3 " " Sodium Chlorate at 8 cents per pound	= 24 cents
10 " " Borascu at 2.3 cents per pound	= 23 cents

With the heavier applications the borax will be higher in cost but certain advantages in its use may offset the price differential.

Applications are most effective when made in the fall. There is still plenty of time to make treatments and the research group will be glad to learn of the results secured where agents make trials.