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Radio News Briefs

For A Growing Minnesota

4 August 1, 1969

Caution Urged in Selecting Chemicals for Armyworm Control

Farmers in the southern part of Minnesota are urged to exercise caution in selecting insecticides to control armyworms in small grains and corn.

Phil Harein, University of Minnesota extension entomologist, says that incorrect information apparently is being circulated concerning what chemicals can be used on small grains and which ones cannot.

Because of registration limitations on other insecticides, malathion (mal-a-thy-on) is the only chemical that can be used on small grains without limitation. Toxaphene can also be used, but the grain cannot be fed to dairy or beef cattle. And the straw cannot be used for livestock bedding.

Malathion, then, is the recommended chemical for use on small grains to control armyworms. If it is used, wait seven days before cutting the grain. It should be applied at from one to one-and-a-quarter (1-1½) pounds per acre. Small grains should be sprayed with malathion if the worm population is over 5-10 worms per square foot, or where you want to protect adjacent crops.

Harein stresses the fact that carbaryl, more commonly known as Sevin, has not been legally registered for use on small grain after it has headed. However, it can be used on corn to control armyworms. It should be applied at 1½ pounds per acre, and there is no waiting period for corn harvest. Toxaphene, malathion and endrin can also be used on corn, but there are limitations.

Toxaphene should be applied at 2 pounds per acre. But do not feed the forage to dairy animals or animals being finished for slaughter. Malathion should be applied at 1½ pounds per acre, but do not harvest the corn for five days. Likewise, endrin should be applied to corn at four ounces per acre. But do not harvest the crop for 45 days after it has been treated.

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Dairymen: Watch Calving Due Dates

Dairymen should watch calving due dates carefully to make sure that each cow gets her six to eight week dry period before calving.

Bill Mudge, extension dairyman at the University of Minnesota, points out that cows with no dry period often produce 25 to 30 percent less milk in the next lactation.

Thin cows need the full eight-week period, he says, while those in good flesh need only about six weeks.

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Soil Test Should Include Subsoil Samples

A good soil test should include a sample of the subsoil as well as the surface soil. The reason for this, say soil scientists at the University of Minnesota, is that the subsoil fertility affects the production of many crops.

According to John Grava and Bill Fenster one subsoil sample for each soil type on a farm is usually enough. For subsoil samples, take 1-pint samples from a depth of 6 to 12 inches. Deeper samples may be taken, but be sure to identify the depths. Never mix the subsoil samples from different depths!

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Watch for Cedar-Apple Rust

Signs of cedar-apple rust may be seen soon on the leaves of apple trees.

Herb Johnson, a University of Minnesota plant pathologist, says that the disease first appears on apple trees as small, yellow spots on the leaves.

The spots enlarge during the summer and often form red centers with a cushion-like structure on the lower side.

If you notice any of these signs, see your county agent. Ask him for a copy of Plant Pathology Fact Sheet Number 4. It's titled "Cedar-Apple Rust."

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Shop for Plentiful Foods

There's a lot of talk these days about high food prices and big grocery bills. But smart homemakers have ways of keeping their food budgets in line. One way is to shop for foods in plentiful supply since they're likely to be good buys. Each month the U.S. Department of Agriculture lists the foods that will be abundant.

For August, the list of plentiful includes wheat products -- appropriate enough, since August is National Sandwich Month. All-American peanut butter -- for the youngsters' favorite sandwich -- is another of the abundant foods, along with peanuts. Also on the list of plentiful are summer vegetables which make delicious accompaniments to sandwiches when served as a crisp salad. For dessert serve August abundant fruits -- watermelon, pears or nectarines.

Limes for refreshing drinks and onions are other foods that promise to be in good supply during August. So -- keep these foods in mind during the month as you do your shopping.

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On Picking and Keeping Roses

When you pick roses, take a container of water to the garden with you and plunge the blooms in the water as soon as you cut them. Cut the stem of each rose at a slant so the cells can take up water. Robert Phillips, University of Minnesota floriculturist, advises taking as few leaves as possible when cutting roses. And avoid picking roses from a plant you set out this year.

Once you've picked the roses and taken them indoors, be sure the vase or bowl you use has been washed clean. Use lukewarm water and add a flower preservative you can get from your florist. The preservative will keep the color bright and prevent growth of the bacteria that cause roses to deteriorate.