

"FLORIDA METHOD" FOR THE CONTROL OF BOLL WEEVIL

An "Improved Method of Controlling Boll Weevil" is described in Bulletin 165 of the Florida Experiment Station (Gainesville, Florida), written by Mr. Geo. D. Smith, Associate Entomologist, with introduction by Mr. Wilmon Newell, Director. For the benefit of interested North Carolina farmers we here outline the method gleaned from the 72 pages of the bulletin.

It consists of: (1) Planting "only moderately early." (2) Stripping all squares from the plants about June 5 (in Florida) and burning them; and (3) immediately giving a thorough dusting of pure dry calcium arsenate (poison) with cotton-dusting machine, aiming especially "to force it (the poison) actually into the terminal bud of every plant."

The hand-gun type of machine is recommended.

The gist of the method may be summarized as follows:

1. Remove all squares from the cotton plants about June 5 and destroy them.

2. Follow this at once with a thorough application of calcium arsenate, using a suitable dusting machine.

It is useless to attempt to control the weevils by this method until practically all of them are out of their winter quarters. In Florida this is normally about June 5. Treatment earlier than this date will be followed by reinfestation of the fields.

The maximum effect of applying the poison cannot be secured unless the cotton plants are first stripped of ALL squares. (Infested or not infested, punctured or not punctured—"ALL squares"—F. S.)

"If the stripping is done about June 5 to 8 (in Florida, remember F. S.) the number of weevils still remaining in winter quarters and which can still come to the cotton fields is of practically no consequence. These few stragglers cannot increase sufficiently to seriously affect the number of bolls set on the plants in the two months following."

The experiments in 1922 were conducted in 20 separate fields in North Florida. The land was of rolling, sandy loam soil, well drained, where the plants tended to mature the crop early.

The average value of crop on the 20 treated fields was \$35.42 per acre—and the average cost of treatment is given as \$1.57 per acre.

The average value of crop on untreated fields was \$13.20 per acre. Thus an expenditure of \$1.57 per acre in weevil control brought a net gain of \$22.22 per acre.

The purchase of "about 10 pounds of poison per acre" is advised, and "we do not advise applying the poison at night."

TO NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS:

The procedure developed in Florida is a radical modification and simplification of the standard dust-poison method developed by the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, which we have advocated and demonstrated during 1922.

It appears logical, reasonable, and is backed by field tests and data of results secured (in Florida, not yet done in other States).

Notice that pure dry calcium arsenate (poison) is used—applied with cotton dusting machine—thus far it is in line with previous standard method. But only one dusting is insisted upon, and that with hand-gun machine—this greatly simplifies the poisoning and lessens the cost.

But—before the dusting is done all squares are to be stripped from plants and burned after (virtually) all weevils have come out of hibernation. This is a new point—it will test the faith and thoroughness of the farmer. The time for this is fixed at June 5 to 8 in North Florida, when "an average of about two large squares to the plant." We cannot yet give exact date for North Carolina, but in our southern counties in 1922 it would have been about June 10 to 20, according to our notes.

The idea is to get rid of the progeny of the over-wintered generation after all are out by picking and destroying all squares, thus forcing (or inducing) the weevils that remain to concentrate more in the terminal bud of plants, where they are poisoned by the dust-poison application blown into that part of the plant; the plant is then due to put on a new crop of squares and get a reasonable crop assured before the weevils again become overwhelmingly abundant.

And hundreds of our farmers will want to know: "Which is the best method?" "Which method shall I follow?"

The standard dust-poison method as explained in Farmers Bulletin 1262 of U. S. Department of Agriculture and Extension Circular 124 of N. C. Extension Service, has been abundantly proven in many States over a period of from one to four years. In Scotland County, N. C., in 1922 it has returned an increase of over \$25.00 worth of cotton per acre on an expenditure

WANTED—EXACT DATES OF FIRST APPEARANCE OF BOLL WEEVILS

In dealing with any important problem one of the first and greatest needs is the accumulation of accurate exact facts, upon which to build our reasoning, and our future work.

This is as true with boll weevil as it is with other problems. And many of the essential facts about the boll weevil are already well established. Yet here in North Carolina, where we are near the edge of the cotton belt, and where the weevil has only been present for a few years, it is to be expected that the time of the appearance of weevils in the fields, the time when egg-laying begins, and other like events, will be somewhat different than in the States to the south of us.

The "Florida Method" for control of boll weevil is based upon an exact knowledge of the time when the weevils are all out of hibernation and in the fields, and this was only determined after the lapse of many years. We cannot expect to determine it in this State with final dependable accuracy in one year—it may take five years, or longer—before we will know the general average dates which we need to know for a safe and certain use of the Florida method. True, we have some preliminary facts now, by aid of which we can begin to feel our way.

We cannot expect the farmer to determine when the last of the weevils are out of hibernation and in the fields, but the farmer who is interested and observant can help us to determine when the first weevils begin to appear on his young cotton, and this is of some importance also.

Let it be distinctly understood that we do NOT advise the farmer to begin any applications of poison when the weevils first appear—we are sure that it is wasteful, especially if one is prepared to use the standard dust-method later—yet if a farmer is determined to fight them from the start, by what should have a definite and accurate knowledge of when the weevils first actually appear in his cotton field.

If we go by what we "hear," or by what we "see in the papers," accepting it all as gospel truth, we may be easily deceived, waste time, labor and money, and still be confused in our knowledge. The farmer should by all means be careful of the accuracy of the person whose word he accepts in this matter. Not that many persons would wish to deceive you, but it is a simple fact that there are hundreds of people who are very sure that they know the boll weevil on sight who might make mistakes in its identity. Such persons are responsible for many erroneous reports of finding of weevils in winter or early spring. If I were to build up our records of the early-season activities of the boll weevil on these reports I would soon have a very complete record to present to our farmers—but it would be full of errors.

This office is the proper place to send specimens of which you have the least doubt whatever, and you can well afford to be in doubt until you really know the rasal. Of course in midsummer, when we know that the weevil is throughout our fields, there is no need to have specimens examined by experts, but those who wish to be accurate in determining the real facts about their first appearance in the fields, would do well to make sure. For twenty years people have been sending us specimens of what they think are boll weevils, yet the first genuine ones from the State

WOMAN ACQUITTED FOR KILLING NEGRO MAN

Mrs. Medlin Shot Him When She Found Him Prowling O. Premises

Reidsville, May 27. — Judge Humphreys ordered that a bond of \$500 be entered against Mrs. Medlin. If within 30 days any further evidence is not obtained incriminating her, the case will be dismissed. Mrs. Dora Medlin, middle-aged white woman, was given a preliminary hearing before Judge Humphreys on a charge of murder of Bert Galloway, a man about forty years of age.

According to the evidence by the State, on Tuesday night between 9 and 10 o'clock Galloway was shot by Mrs. Medlin. The wounded man was taken to a village hospital, where he died shortly after reaching there. Officers testified that Mrs. Medlin told them that Galloway was seen prowling around her premises just north of town; that she asked him what he

aside from those found in 1919 by our trained workers) were not sent until 1920. All through this past winter and spring we have been "hearing" of weevils being found in the woods, in stumps, under boards, etc., and when the specimens are sent to us they are usually weevils, but not boll weevils.

At the moment this is written (May 18, 1923) seven genuine living boll weevils have been sent to us this year. Two of these were found by our own workers in Moore county, and one taken in a telegraph office at Dunn, was given to Mr. Mabec and he sent it on to me. Four have been sent in from St. Pauls in Robeson county. All the rest (perhaps 40) sendings since the first of the year) have been "false alarms." To this day I have no record of boll weevil in the young cotton of this season's planting, and I would like to receive the first specimens found in the young cotton, from every county. This will help us to determine the facts. Send specimens in small tight package, marked (inside, or with letter) to show locality and date when found. Send them alive—a dead weevil may be a last year's one.

Last year (1922) the first ones on young cotton were captured on May 23rd, in southern Robeson. It seemed as if they might be earlier this year, but we are now within 5 days of the last year's date, and no record yet.

...anted; that Galloway after being warned to leave, started toward the house, and thinking he was bent on assaulting her she went inside the house, secured her revolver, returned, and as she reached the door the negro reached out his hands as if to grab her. It was then that she fired. Galloway, after being shot and mortally wounded, instead of going to the street, departed via the back yard route.

Clarence Sutton testified that during the night he heard groans and decided to make an investigation. Following the noise he discovered Galloway in a field near the place of the shooting. Later, Sutton notified and these men, but Sutton asked Galloway what he was doing, but some-

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