

Weed Killer Residue in Spray Rigs Damages Many Tobacco Plant Beds

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Fortunately there are many things in this world of ours which are extremely useful as long as they are "kept in their place." And among these fine things are fire, water, and chemical weed killers. Quite a number of tobacco growers this year have learned the hard way that 2,4-D weed killer, under certain conditions, is definitely out of place in tobacco plant beds.

Most of the trouble from 2,4-D injury in tobacco plant beds has come about in this way: A few days after the bed had been sprayed for blue mold control the tobacco plants began to show very abnormal growth and appearance. As one grower expressed it, "My tobacco plants turned to mullein."

(Mullein is a weed with leaves shaped somewhat like those of tobacco. However, it possesses a thickness, wooliness, and other qualities which make it undesirable as a substitute for cigarette tobacco.)

The injury left the leaves with ruffled rather than smooth margins. The leaves were of various shapes and sizes, generally narrower than the leaves of healthy plants. The midvein was abnormally large and noticeably crooked.

Sometimes the plants were rather "long shanked," standing up above normal plants. Root growth was poor. Many plants were finally killed, and those that survived could not be expected to recover completely. Affected plants could not be used for transplanting, and the beds were abandoned.

In most cases the trouble was traced to the use of spray equip-

ment in which 2,4-D weed killer had formerly been used. In other cases, barrels and containers in which 2,4-D had previously been mixed were used in preparing the blue mold spray.

There were a number of cases last year where sprayers, previously used for applying 2,4-D damaged tomatoes and other garden crops. Sometimes vegetables have been damaged where 2,4-D was sprayed on weeds close by. The spray mist drifted over onto these plants and caused serious injury.

This article is not intended to discourage the use of chemical weed killers. The recent scientific development in weed control with 2,4-D (short for 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) should be a big boon to agriculture. However, in using this material growers should be certain that it gets into the right places.

While all precautions cannot be mentioned here, these suggestions will help in avoiding misuse of the material:

1. Have separate sprayers or

dusters for applying 2,4-D to weeds and for applying fungicides or insecticides to crops.

2. Have separate containers for mixing 2,4-D spray and for mixing fungicidal or insecticidal sprays. The 2,4-D material is very difficult to wash out of equipment and containers. Minute traces of this material, when left in equipment or containers, are enough to cause serious injury to some crops. Some manufacturers suggest cleaning sprayers in which 2,4-D has been used with ammonia solutions. However, it is probably safer to have separate equipment.

3. When applying 2,4-D to weed patches or in fields of grain near broad-leaved crops, be sure to catch the wind the right way. Keep the chemical from drifting toward these crops.

4. Follow all other precautions recommended by manufacturers and agricultural authorities.

For detailed information on the use of 2,4-D for weed control and necessary precautions, request Agronomy Information Circular No. 146, "2,4-D and Its Use for Weed Control," from the Department of Agronomy, N. C. State College, Raleigh.

State Pig Production Shows Decrease This Year

RALEIGH — North Carolina hog growers farrowed fewer sows and produced a slightly smaller crop of spring pigs this year than last, according to an estimate by Ray B. Converse, crop reporting specialist with the North Carolina and U. S. Departments of Agriculture.

The estimate, based on a survey recently made by rural mail carriers, indicated that 130,000 sows were farrowed during the first six months of this year, as compared with 134,000 last year and a 10-year (1937-46) average of 126,000. Heaviest farrowings, or slightly more than 61 percent, were during February, March and April.

Pigs saved per litter were up slightly over last year but the increase was not sufficient to offset the drop in the number of sows farrowed. The total number of pigs saved was placed at 819,000 this spring as compared with 831,000 for the same period last year.

If North Carolina farmers carry out present intentions, Converse said, fall farrowings will be reduced even more. He estimated that 104,000 sows would be farrowed during the last half of this year as compared with 109,000 farrowed during the corresponding time last year and a 10-year average of 103,000.

PMA Announces List of Foods Plentiful in July

Late-crop Irish potatoes will be "a good food buy through all July," luscious, vitamin-rich tomatoes running a close second in the fresh vegetable field, the Production and Marketing administration has announced.

In listing the foods expected to be in most plentiful supply in the coming month, the U. S. Department of Agriculture points out that Irish potatoes—the month's "star" among plentiful—yield both food energy and important minerals and vitamins, as well as a little protein. As for tomatoes, USDA nutritionists list them as very important suppliers of vitamin C, with generous amounts of Vitamin A also.

Cantaloups, oranges, and lemons also are listed among the fresh foods expected to be plentiful throughout July. Other foods on the list include the following canned products: Peas, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, tomato juice, tomato catsup, tomato paste, tomato puree, apples, apple sauce, apple juice; orange, grapefruit, and blended citrus juices; grapefruit segments, and fresh prunes (purple plums).

Other foods on the July list of plentiful include fruit spreads, honey, peanut butter, both fresh and frozen fish and eggs.

In addition, USDA said, supplies of frozen peas should be relatively plentiful in the coming month on many markets. Broilers and fryers also are expected to be in the relatively plentiful class, and at reasonable prices, compared with competing protein foods.

Beer Vital for Steel Mills

LONDON — (AP) — Manganese may be useful in steel making, but beer is essential. Councillor George Brown, secretary of the Rotherham, Yorkshire Trades Council, wrote Food Minister Strachey: "Send us more beer or steel output will fall." Steel workers on hot jobs near the furnaces take beer to work in their tea cans. Many drink eight pints a day. Cuts in sugar for brewing are responsible for beer shortages.

Because news was late in arriving, fighting was still going on in Louisiana 59 days after the signing of the treaty which ended the war of 1812 between the United States and England.

The life span of an American patent is 17 years.

Central Andes Indians Receive Pay in Leaves

CHICAGO — Indians of the central Andes sometimes receive part of their wages in leaves.

The Desloge Peruvian Botanical Expedition of the Chicago Natural History Museum, returning after studying cultivated plants in the valleys of Peru, reports that the cocaine plant is grown in terraced valleys about 5,000 feet above sea level. The Indians pick the leaves by hand, pressing them into bales for shipment. The custom of chewing cocoa leaves is so common, said Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, curator of Economic Botany at the Museum, that most haciendas pay part of an Indian's wages in cocoa leaves.

An alkali, usually ashes or lime mixed with clay, is added to the quid, for without it there is little effect. Members of the expedition report that this practice is similar to the use of ashes of lime with betel nut in the western Pacific Islands.

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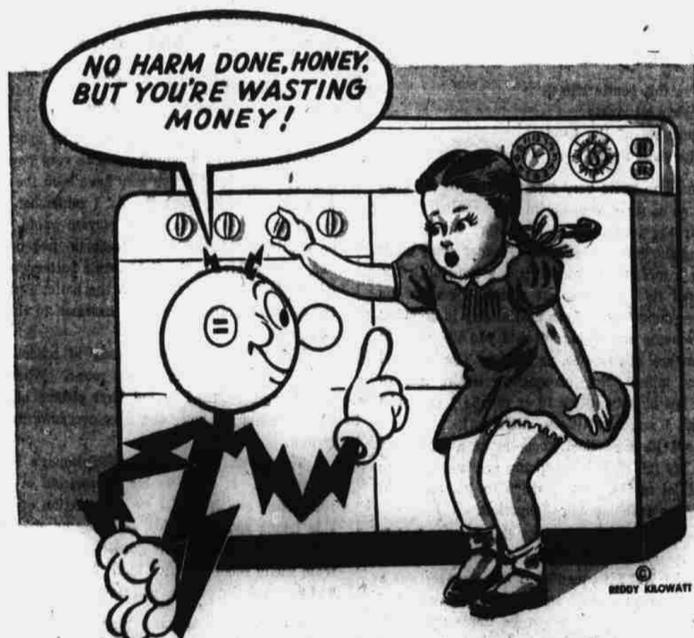


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