

Billbugs Problem To East Farmers

"Can anything be done about billbugs?"

That's the question many a corn farmer in eastern North Carolina is asking himself and his neighbors. Next to wireworms and Southern corn worms, billbugs are the most important insect pest of growing corn, in the opinion of Walter M. Kulash, insect specialist with the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Billbugs are appropriately named because of their long "beaks" or "bills" which resemble the beak or bill of the curlew bird, hence the name "curlew" bug, which some farmers call this particular pest. Actually the "curlew" bug is another species of billbug less common in eastern North Carolina than the maize billbug which it closely resembles and which is the most com-

mon billbug. Billbug damages corn by feeding and laying eggs at the base of the corn stalk. Damage to the leaf is a characteristic series of three or four holes across the young leaf. Severely injured plants are stunted, as "sucker" cut, and do not produce corn.

Kulash has tried laboratory tests with several insecticides to control billbugs. In laboratory tests he compared insecticides made with citrus pulp and corn dust and found no difference in control that was due to type of formation. The best kill after 18 hours of exposure was obtained with 5 per cent aldrin, 5 per cent heptachlor, 5 per cent dieldrin and 5 per cent chlordane in that order. Toxaphene, 20 per cent, was relatively ineffective at 18 hours after treatment. In the field, Kulash tried granular and citrus pulp formulations of aldrin, chlordane, and heptachlor in two surface applications two weeks apart when corn was eight to twelve inches high. He

used 5000 grains heptachlor as a seed treatment and in mixture with fertilizer applied at the time of planting. Treated seed did not stop billbug damage. Billbug damage in all other treatments ranged from 6 per cent in the 5 per cent aldrin citrus pulp surface treatment to 38 per cent for the untreated check. The result in the heptachlor-fertilizer treatment were inconclusive, Kulash reports, because of the difference in soil type between that treatment and the other treatments.

To avoid billbug damage, Kulash recommends that you follow a rotation wherein corn does not follow corn and that you do not plant in areas where billbug damage occurs most severely.

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From Our Readers

On front page of your paper is a news story, "Church Denounces Segregation Action". The news story contains the following:

Segregation and unification of schools and churches, 87 words. Segregation only, 105 words, unification of the southern and northern churches, 151 words of the Presbyterian Churches.

Who is responsible for this slanted and bias headline? If your writer had to use the word "denounce," should not unification follow instead of segregation? The two main subject contained 228 words, the headline subject only 105 of these words, the main subject not shown in headline contains 161 words.

As you know a great many readers read the headlines only, therefore I say that story is slanted. Don't you think that the word "Oppose" would be the correct word to use concerning both subjects covered by this story and the resolutions drawn up by the church?

A few words concerning the resolution concerning unification they are everlastingly right. Through raised a Presbyterian, circumstances caused me to join the Methodist Church. A few years ago we Southern Methodists joined up with the Northern church and the Southern Methodists went down the drain. We are right where the Presbyterians fear they would go if they united with the Northern Church.

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