

MH-30 Increases Yield Tobacco Growers Told

The use of MH-30 to inhibit the growth of tobacco suckers increased the yield in every case, a tobacco researcher told growers last Friday night.

Speaking to over 40 tobacco growers at the stockholders' meeting of the Lancaster County Tobacco Growers Cooperative Assn., T. R. Terrill, director of the Southeast Pennsylvania Field Research Laboratory, said experiments had shown increased yields and less shed burn with the use of the chemical as compared with hand suckering.

Terrill said trials on the research laboratory farm near Landisville showed an average of 330 pounds increase in yield when MH-30 was used.

In amount of shed burn based on a scale of one to five (with five representing severe damage) tobacco treated with the chemical showed an average of 2.2 while hand suckered crops were damaged to the extent of 2.7. The difference of 0.5, while seemingly small would represent a significant difference of 10 percent in the amount of damage to the crop.

In the trials, four varieties of tobacco were topped at bud stage and at 80 percent bloom. In each case the tobacco was sprayed or suckered five days after topping.

Previous experiments, Terrill said, have shown that spraying at five days after topping causes less change in the leaf than application of the spray before or at topping time.

Tobacco was topped at three different heights in the experiment. In only one case was there more shed burn in the sprayed crop. When the crop was topped at 80 percent of bloom and at a height of 20 leaves per stalk, the hand suckered plot showed 2.3 on the shed burn rating chart as compared to 2.6 for the treated plot.

On the 192 plots, 96 hand suckered and 96 sprayed with MH-30, the average yield was 1,988 pounds per acre for hand suckered and 2,318 pounds per acre for the sprayed crop.

When tobacco was topped in the bud stage, spraying made the greatest difference in pounds harvested, but not the highest total pounds. Highest total pounds was realized from tobacco topped at 80 percent of bloom and at a height of 20 leaves, but very little difference in the weight between sprayed and hand suckered crops was noted. Heights of topping ranged all the way from eight leaves at bud stage to the 20 leaf height.

Terrill said acceptance of the treated leaf varies consid-

erably in the county. Some companies say it makes no difference to their processing while other companies have said the spray will ruin the crop. "It seems to be a matter of management both on the farm and in the factory," Terrill said.

At present chemical tests as well as comparison tests of cigars made from treated leaf are being carried out by four large companies. Meanwhile, farm use of the chemical has increased each year since 1957.

Conclusions from the tests, Terrill said, indicated, varietal differences in shed burn damage. Varieties did differ in damage, he said, but shed burn does not appear to be associated with the close growing crops.

In their business meeting members of the Tobacco Growers Cooperative elected to directorship in the organization Harry Hershey, Marietta R1; Arthur Reist, 1051 Eden Road, Lancaster, and Aldus Myer, Millersville R1.

Financial statement of the organization showed a net margin for the year of \$6,459.20 compared with \$5,908.98 for 1959. A total of \$7,533.20 was added to the Reserve for Contingencies during the year bringing the current Patrons' Equity deficit to \$24,048.12 from \$31,581.32 the previous year.

TRY NEW FLOWERS

New 1961 All-America flower winners are 'Gloriosa' double daisy, 'Rosie O'Day' sweet alyssum and 'Coral Satin' petunia. They provide a glorious border planting by themselves, says Mrs. Lynn B. Smith, extension floriculturist, and to be sure you have some in your garden this year, she suggests ordering seeds early from any reliable seed firm or dealer.



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