ALFALFA WEEVIL DAMAGE on the plant at left shows up as lacy leaves near the tip of the plant. Stalk at right shows very little damage. A total of nine weevil larvae were on the terminal bud of the plant at left. The field shown here was treated last fall with Dieldrin. L. F. Photo.

● Alfalfa Spray

(Continued from Page 1)

tions of eggs, larvae, pupae, and adult weevils in fields treated last fall with either heptachlor or dieldrin according to recommendations Heaviest infestations were found in older fields where dieldrin or heptachlor have been used for two or three consecutive years; the lighter infestations in new stands appears to show that the weevils have built up an immunity to the chemicals.

The problem will probably last into June, Pepper said, since eggs were found in large numbers. Normally, the weevils hatch at about the same time, and spray recommendations can be timed to control the larvae or worm stage, but with the pests in all stages, control programs are hard to devise.

Two major concerns faced county farmers this week. What can be done about the present crop, and how can later cuttings be protected?

Pepper recommended immediate harvesting of badly infested fields, if growth is high enough to warrant it, and spraying of the stubble two or three days after harvest.

If the crop is a week away from desirable harvest time, the spray can be applied and the crop harvested a week later In no case should sprayed fields be harvested inside seven days, he said.

Pepper said any one of four materials can be used as stubble spray Guthion, 25 per cent emulsion, should be applied at two pints per acre. Methoxychlor, 25 per cent emulsion, at two quarts per acre, Diazinon, 500 emulsion, one pint per acre, or Malathion, five pounds per gallon emulsion, at the rate of 1½ pints per acre.

For new stands either methoxychlor of malathion can be applied seven days before harvest The methoxychlor should be put on at three quarts per acre, and the malathion at 1½ pints

Lueck said in most cases, the older stands should be harvested first, letting the new crops get as much growth as possible.

Lueck said that of over 200 fields inspected over the last two weeks, only 20 treated last fall with heptachlor or dieldrin had weevil control, and those were fields where the spray was applied last fall for the first time.

Pepper reminded farmers that 'absolutely no heptachlor or dieldrin may be sprayed on hay fields this spring or summer."

He also pointed out that stubble spray applied for weevil control will not control leafhoppers He recommended a spray of methoxychlor when the new growth is six inches high

Non-Chemical Control

Meanwhile, a crash program on non-chemical methods of pest control was urged by the National Agricultural Research Advisory Committee in its quarterly report to the U S. Department of Agriculture.

Increased research on how pesticides function and what happens to them after use, together with development of new, safer and more economical chemicals is needed, the committee said

Still more emphasis is needed on biological controls, attractants, repellants, sterilization techniques and resistant crop varieties, the report said.

In an attempt at biological control of weevils, two species of parasitic wasps have been released in the county, but results are not yet available.