

● Small Grains

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that on the basis of experience with the beetle's habits in Michigan and Ohio we could look forward to heavier infestations in a short time.

BEHAVIOR

The cereal leaf beetle feeds on the leaves of small grain plants, or even on grasses if grains aren't present. It prefers oats to wheat, Nixon said, noting it is capable of destroying a complete oat crop in short order.

Lancaster and other Pennsylvania counties are particularly well-suited to accommodating this insect, Nixon explained, because many of the state's farms are bordered by woodlots. These provide excellent overwintering conditions for the beetle.

ACTION

Now that the beetle has arrived in the state, Nixon said research funds have been requested to study control methods at Penn State University.

The survey will be continued, and an all-out effort will be made to stop beetles at the Ohio-Pennsylvania state line. Work will be stepped-up on developing literature and getting it circulated, and "we will hope to develop an effective

control program," Nixon stated.

NEW VARIETIES

Preliminary to discussing new varieties of small grains, extension agronomist Elmer C. Pifer noted that the trend in production of small grains in Pennsylvania is down.

Just in the past ten years, he said, "wheat, oats, barley and rye production has dropped about two-thirds." He pointed out an exception to this in wheat acreage this year which is reportedly up 20 percent.

Pifer said a variety of buckwheat, Pennquad, has been markedly improved, and has undergone extensive trials in New York State. He noted a new spring oat variety released this year by Purdue University, Clintford. In four-year trials it has outyielded the standard Clintland by an average of four bushels per acre.

TOUR

Following remarks by the specialists, the group toured the experiment station's small grain plots with Penn State agronomy department personnel Harold G. Marshall and Melvin R. Henninger explaining the details of each.

In discussing winter oats varieties Marshall noted No-

used as standards for comparing several experimental varieties. He expressed enthusiasm particularly for one of the latter — C.I. 7881 — saying it compared very favorably with Norline. He predicted it would probably replace Dubois on next year's recommended varieties list.

Research station farm supervisor John Yocum noted an increased interest among southeastern Pennsylvania farmers in small grains for forage purposes in summer feeding programs.

He suggested that rye, particularly, was favored as a silage and forage crop in the area because it could be taken off early enough for a corn silage crop to follow on the same land. Oats require a longer growing period, he noted, but have the advantage of holding good quality for a longer period of time than rye, which must be harvested in the boot stage or feeding quality declines rapidly.

WHEAT

A yellowish mottling of the leaves of wheat at the station was reported by Yocum. When quizzed on this, Pifer explained the problem is widespread and that agronomists at Cor-

borne mosaic organism is responsible. He attributed its prevalence this year to the cold, wet spring season, adding that the condition is more noticeable before wheat heads develop. Pifer said that some yield reduction is likely in crops effected since the leaf tissue is definitely damaged. He also noted that some pathologists at Penn State are not convinced the organism responsible is the one described by Cornell and Canadian agronomists. However, they have not been able to present findings to the contrary, as yet.

PESTICIDE ACCURACY

It is important to use the right proportions when diluting a pesticide, say extension entomologists at Penn State University. Using too little of the material leads to poor control and helps insects build up resistance while using too much may be hazardous to plant and animal life. Always read and follow directions on labels of pesticide containers.

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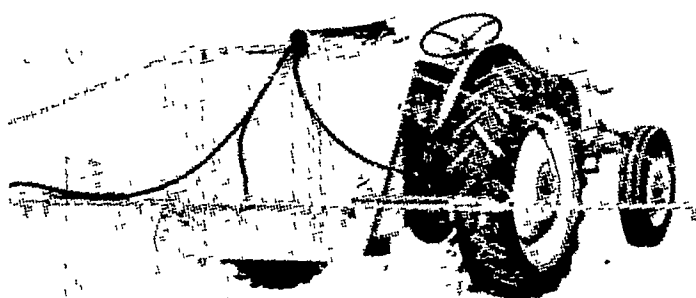
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