Dormant oil sprays make good insect control

NEWARK, Del. - Dormant oil sprays are an excellent way to control several kinds of overwintering insect on woody plants. These highly refined pretroleum oils help kill pests like aphids, mealybugs, scale and mites that spend the winter as eggs in cracks and crevices of plants.

Contact by the oil kills

eggs in two ways First,

through suffocation by in- pest populations should be terfering with oxygen transfer through the egg wall. The oil also dissolves the protective waxy coating on eggs and thus interferes with their overwintering capacity. Treated eggs are more subject to the rigors of winter and less likely to survivie.

People interested in nonpesticide management of

Freund named farm management agent

Freund, associate Cumberland County Extension agent on Penn State's staff, was named area Extension farm management agent, effective March 3.

Thomas B. King, Penn State associate dean for extension, points out that Freund will work closely with Extension agents in conducing educational farm management programs in Lancaster, Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, Perry, and York counties.

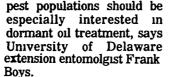
He is headquartered in the York County extension service office. Freund has been a member of the Cumberland County extension service staff since August 1976.

Born and raised in New Guinea, he was educated in

YORK - Roland P. Australia, received a diploma of agriculture from Roseworthy Agricultural College and majored in animal science at the University of New England, New South Wales, Australia. He also earned a Master of Science degree in extension from Michigan State.

Prior to his appointment to the Penn State extension service staff, he was an agriculturist for the New Guinea Lutheran Mission. and Extension Officer, and lecturer ın farm management at Vudal Agricultural College for the Department of Primary Industry, Papua, New Guinea.

He is married to the former Josephine L. Bailey, of Indianapolis, Indiana. They are the parents of one son.



The action of the oil is physical, not chemical. Chemical pesticides actually enter into the metabolism of an insect. Dormant oils, on the other hand, physically interfere with life support systems such as breathing and resistance to the elements.

Oils must be used, though, when the plant is not in leaf, as they can injure foliageespecially if they are applied to newly emerged plant material. This is why they are called dormant oils.

Applied once a year during dormancy, they help reduce pest populations on many woody plants. For maximum control they need to be followed by a general chemical spray program during the growing season. Most plants become

dormant in late October or early November and emerge the following March or April. They can be treated at any tume durng this period when the weather is going to remain mild with temperatures not lower than 40 degrees for about two days after.

A hard freeze immediately after oil has been applied can result in tissue burn of the bark.

Fall conditions are usually most dependable for dormant oil use, says Boys.

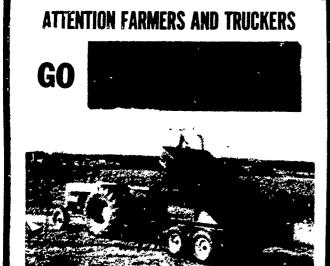
Oil sprays can be applied even before leaf drop is complete since proper temperatures are constant then and no loss occurs from leaf burn as the foliage is falling naturally then.

Spraying is also possible in late winter, but keep a close eye on weather conditions so that you don't get caught by a sudden drop in temperature after treatment.

One word of caution-not all plants can be treated safely with dormant oils. They should be avoided on sugar and Japanese maples, beech, hickory, walnut, butternut, birch, Atlas cedar, chamaecyparis, blue spruce and Douglas fir. Read the label for other use precautions and instructions.







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