

Fumigation rule changes proposed for insect infested grain

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed rule changes under the U.S. Grain Standards Act to stop the practice of fumigating insect-infested grain aboard ship, according to a USDA official.

Leland E. Bartelt, administrator of USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, said currently if,

during the loading process, inspectors find the grain is infested with insects—the grain already aboard is fumigated for 12 hours.

"However, research has shown that this 12-hour fumigation treatment is not always effective in destroying all life stages of the insect," Bartelt said. "Even more important, it is dangerous for grain inspectors to enter fumigated

shipholds to reinspect the grain."

Bartelt said that under the proposal, if insect infested grain is loaded aboard ships, other than bulk dry cargo carriers, the elevator could either choose to receive a certificate stating that the grain is infested or unload the grain from the ship and fumigate it ashore.

The proposal, which would be effective September 1 if

adopted, would affect grain that is found to be infested with insects during loading onto lakers, 'tween deckers, oceangoing barges and tankers.

Fumigation of insect-infested grain would still be permitted on bulk cargo ships after the loading is completed. Research has shown that fumigation after loading on bulk dry cargo ships is safe and effective, Bartelt said.

Research is being conducted on the feasibility of treating insect infested grain after loading is completed on ships other than bulk dry cargo carriers. If the research shows that treatment after loading is effective and safe, FGIS would propose extending this practice to other classes of ships, Bartelt said.

Comments on the proposal should be sent to the Issuance and Coordination Staff, FGIS, USDA, Auditor's Bldg., room 1127, Washington, D.C., 20250. Telephone: (202) 447-3910.

Notice of the proposal requesting comments was published in the Federal Register May 15.

Win the battle against crabgrass

MEDIA — Crabgrass probably causes homeowners more grief than any other lawn weed. According to James McKeehen, Delaware County Extension Agent, new seedlings germinated from last year's seeds, begin to infest lawns early in May.

But don't despair—it is possible to have a crabgrass-free lawn with not too much effort on your part. The condition of the lawn itself is the first line of defense against crabgrass. If you have a very dense and vigorously growing lawn, crabgrass hasn't a chance of getting a foothold.

Lawn care practices that contribute to an attractive

lawn are the same ones that can control crabgrass. Attention must be given to liming, fertilizing (adequate, but not excessive) mowing at a height of 1½ inches. Neglect of these practices and you've issued an open invitation for a crabgrass invasion. Crabgrass can be controlled by chemicals. The trick is to apply the chemical early in the spring before the crabgrass seeds germinate. This is called preemergence control. A good rule of thumb to go by is to apply the chemicals between mid April and late April.

You can get satisfactory results from DCPA (DAT-CHAL), Siduron (Tupersan),

Benefin (BALAN), Bensulide (Betasan), and Oxadiazon (Ronstar). Dachthal has the longest record of satisfactory control. Betasan is the only one which has consistently provided season-long crabgrass control. Siduron is the only safe material to use on newly-seeded lawns. If you plan to seed later in the season you'll have to forego the use of these chemicals.

While 1979 was a near-record income year for U.S. farmers, their costs for production inputs rose much faster than prices they received for farm goods.

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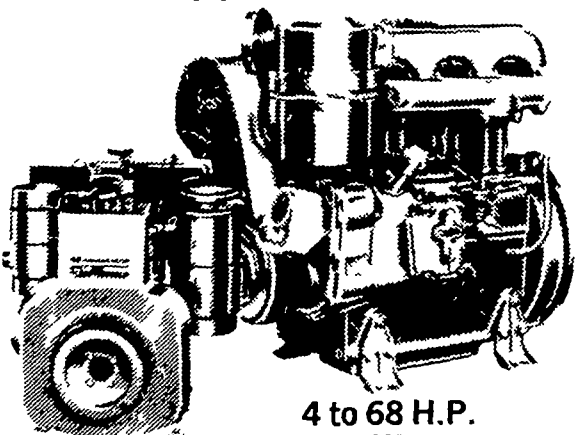


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