

Stubble applied chemicals prevent crop compaction

LANCASTER — Farmers spraying alfalfa for potato leafhopper control can protect their crop from spray rig compaction by applying a long-residual insecticide to the stubble after each cutting.

Most insecticides labeled for leafhopper control must be applied when alfalfa is two to four inches high. This

often presents a problem for the farmer because running a spray rig over the regrowth can damage a stand permanently.

In addition, alfalfa growers generally like to tank mix liquid fertilizer with a leafhopper insecticide for greater application efficiency. Liquid fertilizer can burn back alfalfa if

applied when the crop is a few inches high.

To solve the dilemma, farmers can use an insecticide with a long residual activity which permits stubble applications. Trithion, for instance, is said to be compatible with liquid fertilizer.

Entomologists at Penn State University have not

performed conclusive field trials with Trithion to date because the leafhopper infestation was unusually light last year.

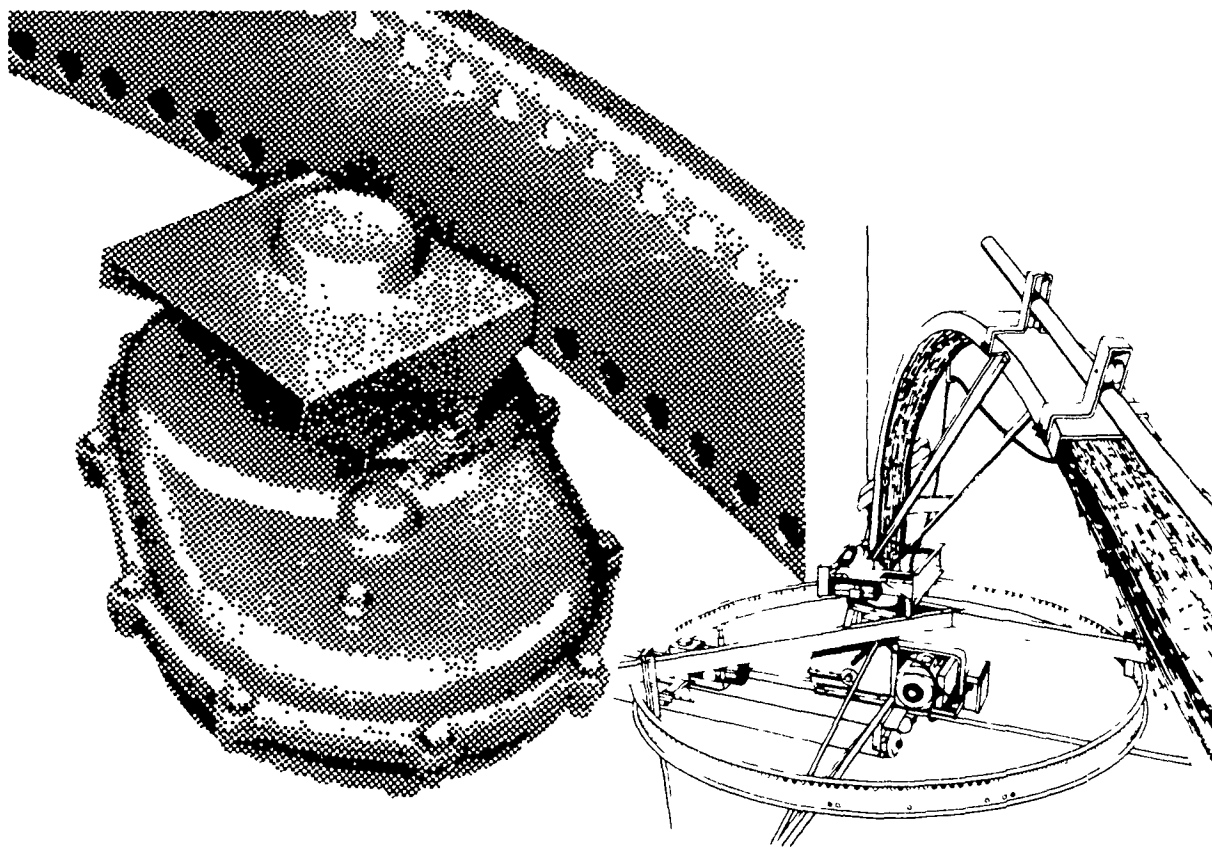
However, Willard Chemical Company, a custom application outfit based in Frederick, Md., has used Trithion extensively on Pennsylvania alfalfa acreage with success.

The company said it treated over 1000 acres of alfalfa in 1978, when leafhopper pressure was

heavy, with a Trithion-liquid fertilizer tank mix.

"By applying the Trithion-liquid fertilizer tank mix," (Turn to Page C34)

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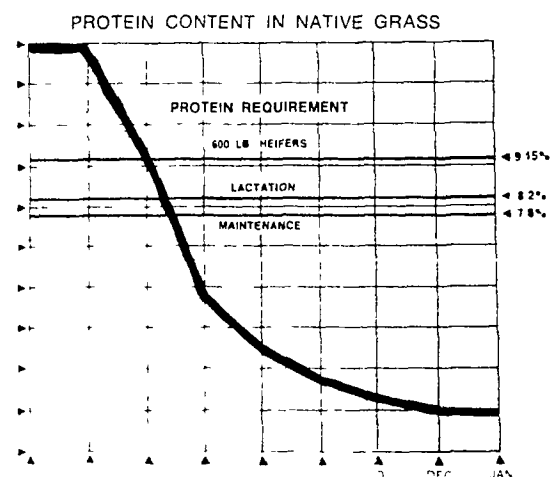


Larry Martin, pest control consultant for Willard Chemical Company sweeps fields for leafhoppers. If populations are beyond the economic threshold, he will apply a tank mix of insecticide and liquid fertilizer to the crop stubble after harvest.

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