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Dangerous beetle pest found in New Jersey

MOONCHIE, N.J. — The world's most destructive stored produce pest—the khapra beetle—has been found in four warehouses in New Jersey, says, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official.

According to Scot Campbell, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Emergency Programs for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the beetle was found during a routine inspection of a spice warehouse in Moonchie. The pest apparently was trans-

sported among chili peppers and spices shipped from India and Pakistan. After other inspections were completed, the pest was also found in a Harrison, N.J., spice company, a Newark burlap bag company and another empty warehouse in Newark.

Hold orders have been placed on the businesses to prevent the beetle's being transported to new locations. Fumigations of the four warehouses are being planned to eliminate the infestation. In addition,

tracebacks are being conducted on other spice shipments and bagging operations to determine if the pest has spread further.

Khapra beetle was eradicated from the U.S. in 1966, although an infested warehouse was found and fumigated in 1978 in Linden, N.J. Losses to this prolific and destructive pest can range from two percent to total destruction in a vast

variety of stored products. Left uncontrolled, they can make the surface of a grain bin come literally alive with millions of wiggling larvae eating their way to the bottom.

USDA inspectors intercept the tiny brownish-black insect on imported cargo between 150 and 300 times a year and it remains a constant threat to stored grain and other stored products.

Home on the Range

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This is the Shoo-Fly Cake recipe Mrs. William Landmeir requested.

Crumbs:
5 cups flour
2 cups brown sugar
½ cup lard
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Liquid:
1 ¾ cups water (hot)
1 ¾ cups molasses
1 teaspoon soda

Put crumb part in a bowl and work together. For liquid, put soda in hot water and add to molasses. Stir about ½ part of crumbs into liquid. Pour into greased baking pan and put remaining crumbs on top. Bake at 375°F. for 45 minutes.

Mrs. Aaron B. Martin, New Holland

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