

Sprayers must be cleaned properly

GETTYSBURG — Sprayers need to be cleaned to prevent corrosion, to prevent cross contamination of pesticides, and to prevent crop injury, explains Thomas E. Piper, Adams County Extension Director.

Trade amounts of one pesticide can react with another or carry over to the next spraying, causing damage, especially with herbicides. Small amounts of some pesticides can damage sprayer components with long contact, including stainless steel tips and fiberglass tanks.

No cleaning method is 100 percent foolproof.

"If you want to spray crops that are very susceptible to herbicide injury such as vegetables, fruits, and ornamentals, it is recommended that two sprayers be used—one for herbicides only and one for

all other pesticides," Piper said. Careful cleaning will usually remove all but insignificantly amounts of insecticides and fungicides.

Always try to end the day with an empty tank. Do not mix more than is needed for today's jobs. Always flush with clean water and drain even if you plan to apply the same material the next day. Also rinse the outside of the sprayer. The use of surfactants with pesticides, when compatible with your needs, will provide some cleaning action in the sprayer.

Some pesticide combinations (especially if oil is used) may produce a putty type paste ("buttering out") in the sprayer tank; flushing with water after each load may prevent an accumulation. If water alone does not dissolve and remove the buildup, add Stoddard

solvent, kerosene, or other low flammable solvent; allow paste to dissolve, then agitate and flush. Next, flush with detergent and finally with clean water.

Whenever you change pesticides or prior to storage, sprayers should be given a thorough cleaning with a cleaning solution. The solution used depends on the pesticide to be removed from the sprayer. Check pesticide label for cleaning instructions or request Ag. Engineering Fact Sheet PM 72 for cleaning agents and rates. This is available at the Extension Office.

First, flush with water, then add the cleaning solution to the tank

and thoroughly agitate before flushing. Always flush with clean water to remove cleaning solution. Remove nozzle tips and screens; clean them in strong detergent solution or kerosene, using a soft brush such as an old toothbrush.

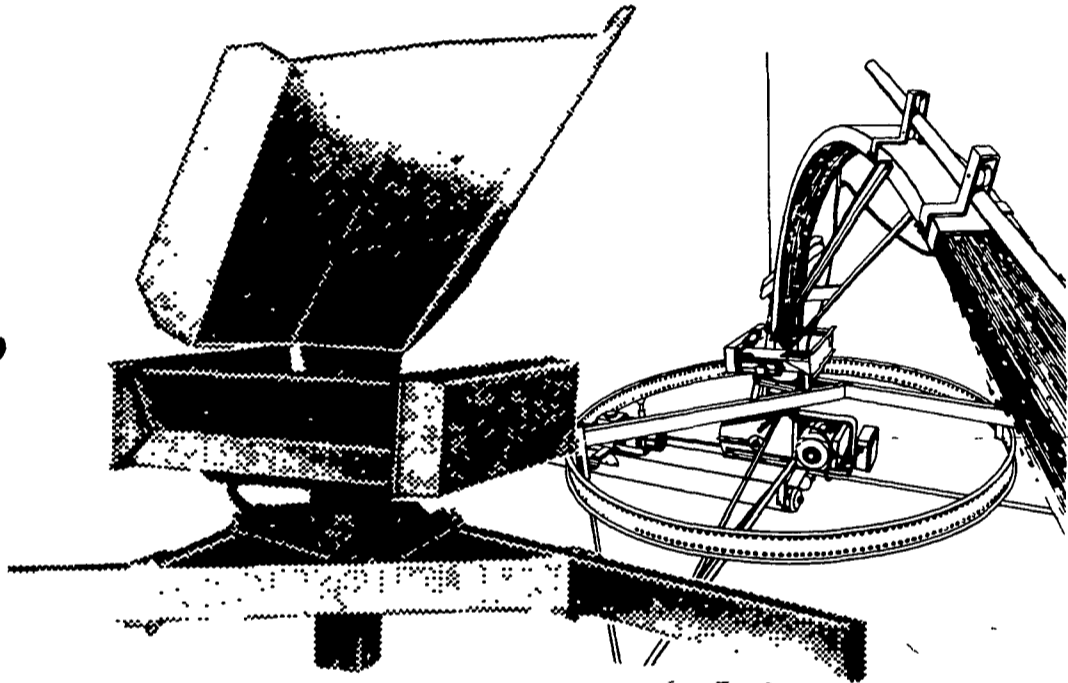
Do not create damage by using wire, knife, or other hard objects that might scratch the orifice or puncture the screen. Choose the washing area carefully; avoid contamination of water supplies and injury to plants or animals. Don't make puddles that might be accessible to children, pets, farm animals or wildlife.

Follow safety precautions during cleaning the same as for ap-

plications. Use respirator, rubber gloves, or other protective gear as may be directed by label instructions.



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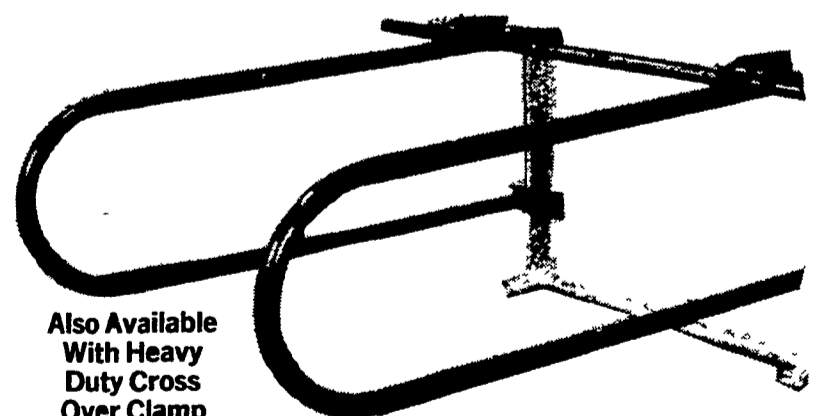
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