

Pesticide OK'd To Battle Slugs In Field Corn

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania farmers confronted with heavy slug infestation in newly planted field corn can now use the pesticide Larvin 3.2 Thiodicarb to prevent crop loss.

State Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff said his department has applied to the Environmental Protection Agency for a crisis exemption to allow use of the insecticide against slugs.

Under emergency procedures, use of the pesticide is authorized

as soon as application for an exemption is made.

The authorization is scheduled to end July 7, but Wolff said the Department will request a specific exemption to continue its use until the slug threat is past.

In his letter to EPA, Wolff said the "problem has erupted into an economically significant infestation in many counties." He said Penn State University entomologists have described infestation and damage as "a crisis situation."

The Department's Bureau of Plant Industry estimates that up to 50 percent of the corn acreage in central parts of the state has been lost to slug damage, Wolff said. "Indications are that other areas under study may suffer as much as 20 percent loss."

Field corn is of major importance to Pennsylvania's agricultural economy. Corn grown for grain in the state is valued at approximately \$200 million annually, while corn for silage

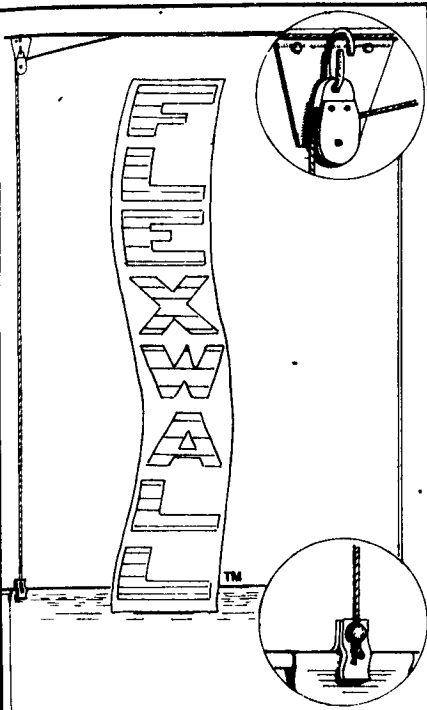
accounts for nearly \$150 million more in a normal year.

"The warm winter followed by extended rains in May and June have resulted in a proliferation of slugs, calling for emergency measures to counter the damage they cause," Wolff said. "The use of Thiodicarb will give our farmers a weapon to stem field corn losses."

"He said the insecticide may be needed until an extended warm,

dry period arrives to reduce the slug population to negligible levels.

The chemical preparation, which is authorized for use on field corn only in Pennsylvania, is Larvin Brand 3.2 Thiodicarb Insecticide/Ovicide, 2 percent bait. Directions for use are available from local Penn State Extension offices and the appropriate product labeling.



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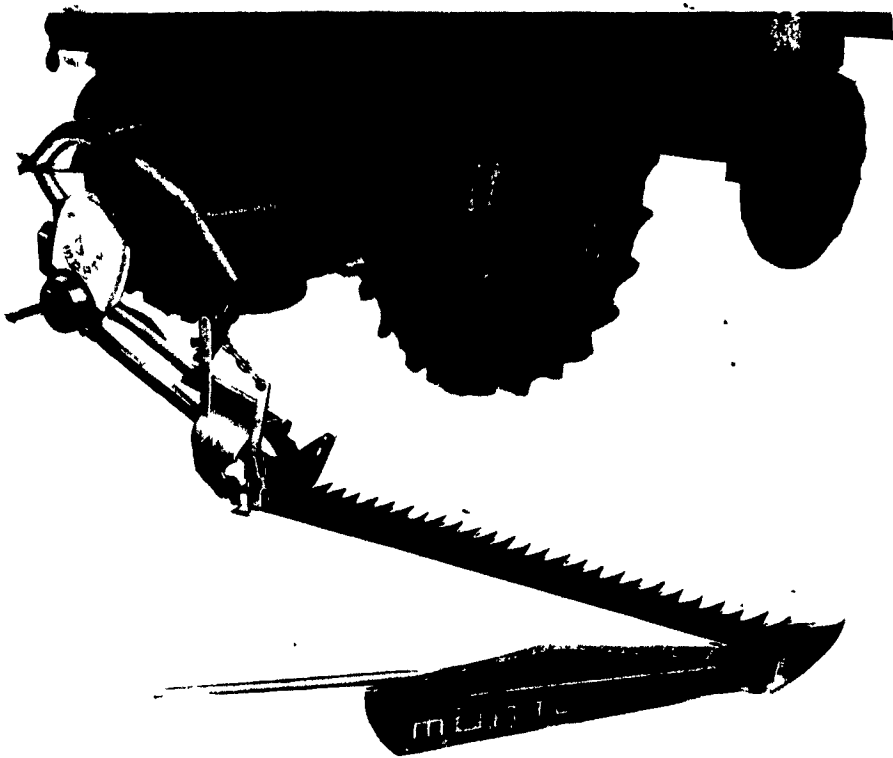
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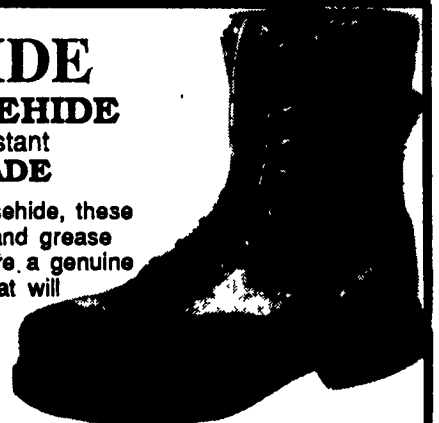
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