

GREENBUG CONTROL

by

James A. Deer, Assistant Extension Entomologist

and

Allen C. Gunter, Associate Extension Entomologist

TEXAS A. AND M. COLLEGE SYSTEM

Greenbugs are wingless, greenish colored plant lice which attack wheat, and occasionally other small grains. Damage occurs generally in February and March. Infestations occurring after March are usually kept in check by natural enemies.

The insects feed on the stems and leaves at temperatures above 50°F., but migrate to the crown during lower temperatures for protection. Control should be initiated during periods when the greenbugs are on stems and leaves.

CONTROL

Two materials, parathion and tetraethyl pyrophosphate (TEPP) will give adequate control when used properly.

Parathion may be used either in the dust form or as sprays made from emulsifiable concentrates. Applications may be made either from airplanes or by ground equipment. Livestock should not be allowed to graze on parathion-treated fields for ten to fourteen days after treatment.

One percent parathion dust applied at a rate of 20 pounds per acre or 15 pounds of one and one-half percent dust per acre gives good control if wind velocities do not exceed five miles per hour.

Parathion sprays applied by airplanes should contain one-half pint of 16 percent emulsion or one pint of 25 percent emulsion in two gallons of water per acre. The same amounts of emulsion in eight to fifteen gallons of water per acre should be used with ground equipment.

Tetraethyl pyrophosphate (TEPP) is used as a liquid and is applied at a rate of four to five ounces of the actual toxicant per acre. The residual effect of TEPP is rather short, and livestock may be grazed on treated fields three days after treatment.

Application of any of the recommended materials should be made only when the greenbugs are seen on the stems and leaves. This is true generally when the temperature is above 50°F.

PRECAUTIONS

Parathion and tetraethyl pyrophosphate are highly poisonous to man and other animals. Only those persons who are willing to follow directions rigidly should handle the materials. The following procedure should be followed in using parathion and TEPP.

1. The chemicals must not be inhaled or allowed to come into contact with the skin.
2. Clothing that has become contaminated with them should be removed immediately and thoroughly washed with soap and water.
3. In case any of the insecticide comes into contact with the skin it must be washed off at once with soap and water.
4. A half-mask equipped with cartridges passed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, supplemented with aerosol filters, should be worn at all times while the operator is exposed to dusts or mists containing parathion. When masks are in constant use, the cartridges must be changed every eight hours and filters must be changed when breathing through them becomes difficult.
5. If a person handling the materials feels any sign of illness, he should contact a physician at once.
6. All containers which have been emptied of the materials should be destroyed in such a way that there is no possibility of later contamination by handling or otherwise.

Issued by
The Agricultural Extension Service
The Texas A. & M. College System and
The United States Department of Agriculture
G. G. Gibson, Director, College Station, Texas.