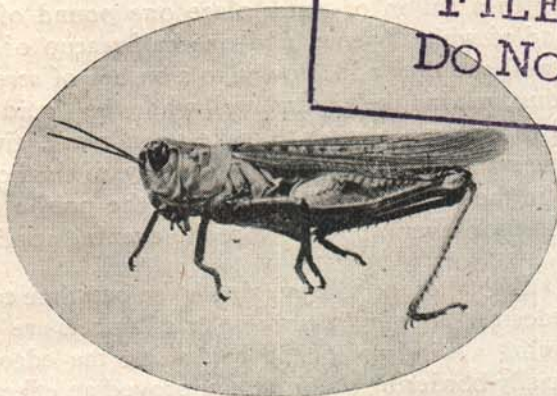


Grasshopper Control

Poison Bait Offers Means of Checking Pest

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Grasshoppers cause immense losses in Michigan each year. Their control is vital in certain sections of the state, and nothing better than poison baits has as yet been found for this work. Burning over sections in order to destroy hoppers is dangerous, because of the fire hazard, and farmers who have resorted to this practice in the past have usually regretted it.

Crops can be saved by regular use of poison baits in the right way. Amount of labor required is low and the cost slight, as compared with crop losses where control measures are not taken.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
EXTENSION DIVISION
R. J. BALDWIN, Director
EAST LANSING

Method of Applying Poison Bait

Mixing

In a gallon of water place one pound of barrel salt, one pound of white arsenic, and one-half teacup of cheap molasses. Stir well and then add, slowly, to a bushel of screened hardwood sawdust, mixing the sawdust well while the liquid is being added. Add enough more water to make a stiff mash, giving the sawdust all the water it will take up without any of the liquid running off. Mix in the morning, so as to allow the poison to soak into the sawdust for several hours before the evening application.

Spreading

Late afternoon or evening is the best time to apply the bait, broadcasting it over areas where grasshoppers are most numerous. Forming a windrow of the bait along the edges of grain fields, especially bordering slashings, has proved an effective measure.

Regular Applications

Use the poison regularly, not just once in a while. Splendid success is achieved where the application is made a daily chore.

Poison Danger

Cattle should be salted well before being turned into a pasture field where the poison bait is being used. Do not allow the bait to become piled up or to accumulate in ridges in pasture lots at any time. It may kill cattle if you do. It can be used in pasture safely, however, if a bushel is made to cover an acre or more. Screen sawdust (using three-quarter inch mesh) to get rid of the large chips, when the bait is to be used on pasture lots. Arsenic is very poisonous, and large chips are dangerous.

Cooperative Mixing

Greatest measure of success is obtained where each township establishes a central mixing-station and hires men to mix the poison and keep large quantities on hand. All the farmers in a community should apply the poison bait in order to secure best results. Otherwise the relief will be but temporary, hoppers flying in from other breeding grounds.

ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT
Michigan Agricultural College.