Chlordane Successful in Control of Mole Crickets

Dr. E. G. Kelshheimer, Entomologist, Vegetable Crops Laboratory, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Bradenton, Fla., reports that Chlordane has been used successfully to control mole crickets in turf. DDT and benzene hexachloride were not satisfactory for this purpose because DDT is slow in its action and because the odor of benzene hexachloride makes it objectionable in residential areas.

Chlordane controls ants, chinch bugs, fall armyworms, and webworms. As a spray, as a dust, or mixed with fertilizer, Chlordane gives excellent control at rates as low as one pound to the acre. It may also be used as a bait.

On plots replicated five times, Chlordane was applied as a five percent dust at the rate of one pound of actual Chlordane to the acre and watered in. There was an average of nine dead mole crickets on each plot of 100 square feet.

Chlordane may be purchased as a 48 or 50 percent emulsion and as a 50 percent wettable powder. To be most effective, it should be applied before a rain or on areas where watering is practicable. It will kill crickets for as long as six weeks to two months after application.

Death results from ingestion, contact, and fumigation. Upon contact with Chlordane, crickets emerge from their tunnels, turn over on their backs, and have nervous quivers until death.

—Timely Turf Topics.