

An Improved "Home-Made" Mole Cricket Bait

By Charles H. Peacock
and Don E. Short

An improved formula of the malathion bait has been developed. It is the result of several years work by an IFAS graduate student, Dr. Rod Kepner.

The new bait has consistently proven to be as effective and in most field evaluations more effective than commercially prepared baits.

Formula and directions for mixing the bait in 50 lb. batches are as follows:

50 lbs. crumbalized laying mash (similar to Purina layena)

2 qts. 50-57% and malathion EC

3 pts. CRUDE cottonseed oil

6 lbs. table sugar

Thoroughly stir and dissolve sugar in 2 qts. hot water. Add cottonseed oil and malathion to sugar water.

Use a 2-3 gallon knapsack sprayer with nozzle tip removed to spay ingredients on laying mash while turning in cement mixer.

Put bait into laying mash bag lined with a plastic bag and store for 1-2 days before application.

Bait will absorb moisture during this time and application will be less difficult.

Calibrate a three-point-hitch cyclone fertilizer spreader to apply 12.5 to 15 lbs. bait/acre.

Cost of ingredients is approximately \$4.50/acre at the 12.5 lb. rate. Apply bait as late in the afternoon as possible.

Optimum time of year for application would be during July prior to the extensive damage that occurs in August, September and October.

The crude cottonseed oil must be obtained from an oil mill from the list below. There are no refining plants in Florida. It is hoped some agricultural supply companies in the state will be stocking the oil in the near future.

The following is a partial list of suppliers of crude cottonseed oil in the southeast:

Hartsville Oil Mill
PO Box 1925
Hartsville, SC 29550
803/332-3526
813/484-9416 (Branch Office)
Mr. Dick Kopein

Albany Oil Mill
PO Box 548
Albany, GA 31702
912/435-4501

Ninety Six Manufacturing
PO Box 128
Ninety Six, SC 29666
803/543-2711

Southern oil Co.
Division of ADM Mills
PO Box 95
Montgomery, AL 36101
205/263-4747

Yazoo Valley Mills
Locks Drawer 1320
Yazoo City, MS 38930
601/453-4312

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For additional information contact Dr. Don Short, Dept. of Entomology-Nematology, IFAS, University of Florida, 904/392-1938. ■