

# Fly Control Problem Gives Country Clubs Trouble

By FRED A. BATSON

Fly control, thanks to the combined efforts of chemists, entomologists, pest control operators and other interested groups has been developed to the state that if properly done excellent results will be obtained under almost every conceivable condition. Fly control is the result of good planning and of the proper diagnosis and solution of the specific problems you face on your own premises. It is an excellent idea to enlist the help of a professional in this field. A reputable pest control operator who specializes in fly control can save you time and expensive mistakes. He has the knowledge, experience, the necessary equipment and highly trained servicemen to attend to the actual insecticidal treatments.

Modern fly control remains a combination of three factors, sanitation, complete screening and proper application of a good residual insecticide.

Inadequate screening and poor sanitation make good control extremely difficult to attain. The recommendations which follow are gathered from government bulletins, public health reports and last of all from hard-gotten, personal experience in applying fly control in thousands of commercial establishments.

Screening is a factor that seems so commonplace it should be unnecessary to mention it. You say your place is well screened? Just for your own satisfaction make an inspection of your own premises. The chances are you'll find at least one window without a screen or a screen door without a spring or other closing device. Frequently screen doors do not close entirely because they bind either at top or bottom. It costs little in time and money to discover and correct such defects but it pays dividends.

Under some circumstances vestibules and overhead fans can be installed. These are excellent supplemental measures in preventing the entrance of flies, particularly in connection with doors leading into kitchens and other food handling areas through which flies are most likely to enter.

## Sanitation

The second fundamental in fly control and the one which is extremely important from the standpoint of the entire community is sanitation. Here again the pest

control operator can aid you in making a survey designed to remove as many breeding sites as possible from your premises. Remember that one pound of decaying organic matter can support about 1,200 fly larvae. It has been calculated that the progeny of a single pair of house flies would cover the earth with a layer of flies 47 feet thick in one season if they were provided with sufficient decaying material in which to deposit their eggs. This explains the constant emphasis on sanitation by all authorities on house fly control. Let's list some of the more important points in sanitation:

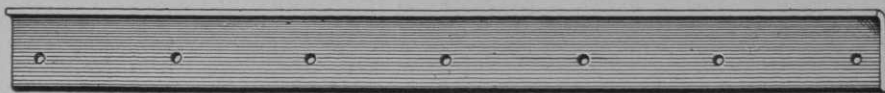
1. Store garbage in tightly covered containers and have it removed several times weekly.
2. Clean garbage cans frequently to prevent the accumulation of material on the bottoms and sides in which flies might breed.
3. Bury, haul away or thoroughly burn all decaying organic matter such as spoiled fruit, vegetables, grass clippings, etc. and do not permit them to lie in piles and ferment.
4. Try to prevent practices which will attract flies to the vicinity of the buildings such as throwing dish water on the ground or carelessly dropping scraps of garbage around garbage cans. Do not pile cases of empty beverage bottles just outside of doors. Keep garbage cans as far away from doors as possible.

It is better to keep garbage cans indoors or else in screened sheds with concrete floors. This is a big factor not only in fly control but also in rat control. Carelessly stored garbage quickly attracts rats and many people have found this out to their great sorrow. It is well to remember that the residual life of insecticides is shortened by direct exposure to rain, wind, etc. A screened shed with a roof furnishes protected surfaces on which an insecticide will retain its toxicity for longer periods of time than when directly exposed to the elements.

## Application of Insecticides

It is here that the services of a professional pest control operator are of paramount importance. In recent years such an array of new insecticides has appeared  
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After a good stand of turf is secured, reasonably high cutting will control chickweed, clover, crab grass, and creeping bent. The latter becomes a troublesome problem on watered courses and creeps into the rough unless blue grass or fescue are permitted to make several inches growth.

### Attention to Traps

Traps around greens should receive constant attention. The sand should be deep and of the correct character. Weeds should be kept in check by hand-weeding or with weed killer. Farnham has been using a strong sodium arsenite solution, about 5 pounds to 40 or 50 gallons of water. This has been very effective. Several clubs in Texas report excellent results by placing the insoluble 2,4-D acid over the surface before adding sand.

The banks at many clubs consist of pegged layers of inverted sod. Philadelphia Country Club uses a strip of sheep fescue sod along the edge of the traps.

Many traps are placed too close to the greens for power mowing. There should be a wide apron between the trap and the closely mowed putting surface in order to permit turning in a wide arc when power mowers are used. Somewhat closer cutting on the apron next to the green pleases the player. One or two mower widths is ample.

### FLY CONTROL PROBLEM

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on the market and are appearing almost daily that even the specialist is hard pressed to keep up to date. It is no easy task to keep informed on latest develop-

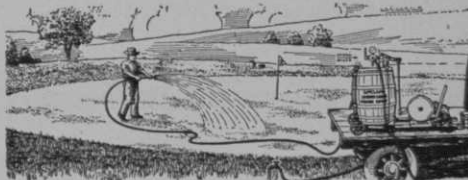
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ments. Some of the new insecticides which have appeared on the market are giving excellent results. Some are still in the experimental stage and cannot be recommended for interior use at this time. Many of them are extremely toxic to warm-blooded animals including man. It is difficult to advise in this respect as information which is valid at the time of writing an article may no longer be applicable at the time of publication. The safest recommendation that can be made in this matter is to be certain to get full information on the subject from reliable sources. Public health departments, state experiment stations, colleges and universities and other agencies publish pamphlets and bulletins which may be procured and studied to get the latest information on insecticides.

As an example of the complexities which face one in insect control it might be well to review the short history of DDT. The initial results with this insecticide were truly phenomenal and all season control of house flies was often achieved with one or two treatments. However, within an amazingly short time reports began filtering in of poor results with DDT and specialists began speaking of a resistance factor. In several years' time this condition progressed to the stage that DDT was found to be of little use in many areas in controlling house flies. To make the situation even worse it has been found that this resistance is passed on from generation to generation and that it is a condition which may persist for a long time to come.

The pest control operator who specializes in fly control has the latest information on insecticides and methods of application. Some of the larger operators have chemists and entomologists on their staffs to study the practical aspects of insect control under field conditions and to read and study the vast amount of material which is published on the subject. They make a study of insecticides and know what materials can be used with safety. They know the chemical and physical properties of these insecticides and insure that they are applied on a schedule which will maintain a high level of toxicity between treatments. They can present you with a complete treatment program which will include not only interior areas but also crucial exterior areas such as gar-

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bage cans, garbage sheds, awnings, screens, etc.

Not only the proper insecticide but also the proper formulation must be used. Application is filled with pitfalls for the amateur. Some surfaces cannot be safely sprayed with insecticides. Asphalt tile floors can be ruined if they are not protected while applying oil-base insecticides. Walls can be streaked and spotted and plants and valuable shrubbery can be destroyed if they are sprayed with improper formulations. These are but a few of the problems to which the pest control operator has ready answers.

The new residual insecticides are a boon to mankind and have opened up new possibilities in insect control. Observance of the fundamentals of screening, sanitation and insecticide treatment will insure successful fly control.

#### WILSON ISSUES PRESS BOOK

Wilson Sporting Goods Co. has issued the 1951 edition of its annual information book for press, radio and TV sports reporters. The book gives biographical data on Wilson advisory staff golfers, 1950 tournament summary and records of major championships. It's the handiest reference work in golf and is extensively used by those who cover golf news. Mark Cox, Wilson's public relations director, and his staff, did their usual fine job on it.

#### NEW TABLE AND CHAIR CATALOG

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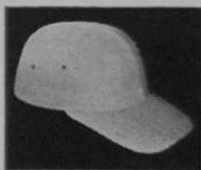
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