

Sudden Death for Mustard

CHALK up another victory for the weed-killer 2,4-D. In June last year mustard was wiped out of wheat growing near Regina, Sask., by spraying 4½ gallons to the acre of a 2,4-D solution costing less than one dollar an acre for the chemical, reports "Experimental Farm News."

These excellent results were obtained in farm tests by the Dominion Experimental Farms with a 2,4-D solution using considerably less water than usually recommended. By killing off the mustard before it was large enough to interfere with the growth of the grain, an increase of two to three bushels of wheat per acre was secured.

The ease in applying the weed-killer, the small amount of water required, and the low cost per acre should make this new method of treating mustard-infested wheat especially helpful to Western farmers, says the report.

Wash Before You Spray

WHEN using selective weed and vine killers and foliage denuders, such as 2,4-D and dinitro compounds, the spray tank and spray gun

should be thoroughly cleaned before changing from one spray mixture to another. If this is not done serious plant injury may result from particles of a previously-used spray remaining in the tank and mixing with the new spray, warns Dr. Ray Hutson, department of entomology.

Traces of 2,4-D and previously used chemicals can usually be removed from metal tanks by repeated rinsing with water. Soaking a wood tank will usually remove arsenates, chlorates and chlorides. Experience indicates that it is practically impossible to safely clean a wood tank once it has been used for 2,4-D.

The following routine for cleaning a metal spray tank between changes in spray mixtures is suggested by Dr. Hutson.

Clean filters and screens. Fill the tank with water and let it stand overnight. While water is draining, operate the pump and wash the inside of the tank with the spray gun. Rinse tank thoroughly with 25 to 50 gallons of clean water. This will remove finely undissolved particles such as lead arsenate and lime.

If 2,4-D has been used, wash and rinse the tank as already described. Then run 25 to 50 gallons of clean water into the tank to which add one pint of household ammonia for each 25 gallons. Pump this solution through the spray gun and thoroughly wash the inside of the tank. Leave the solution in the tank for a day or two, then drain and rinse again with plenty of clean water.

If selective weed or vine killers have been used, add one gallon of miscible or emulsifiable spray oil for each 25 gallons of water in place of the household ammonia.

In small sprayers two teaspoons of household ammonia or one-half pint of the oil should be used with each gallon of water.

How to Keep Out of Trouble

HORSES and mules aren't the only things around the farm that kick. Now that tractors have taken the place of many work teams, they can at times be even more dangerous. For safety's sake it will be good business to keep at least 10 important rules always in mind when handling the tractor.

1. Make sure the gear shift lever is in neutral