Chinch Bugs May Be Serious Pest

Large Numbers Hibernating Around Grain Fields in Some Sections.

Supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.

Chinch bugs, in dangerously large numbers, are hibernating in and around the grain fields of southeastern Iowa and west-central Illinois. Moderately dangerous numbers are in winter quarters in central and eastern Oklahoma, southeastern Kansas, central and northern Missouri, northern Illinois, and parts of Indiana and Ohio.

What may become of these bugs and their progeny and how destructive they will be to crops next summer, depends largely on the weather during and after their flight from their present shelters to the small-grain fields, according to Dr. P. N. Annand, bureau of entomology and plant quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture. No one now knows what the weather will be a few months from now.

Recent surveys by entomologists of the department and the various states concerned show that large numbers of chinch bugs are hidden away for the winter in clump-forming grasses and other protected spots in many parts of the Middle West. A spring and summer unfavorable to the bugs might keep them from doing much damage. Weather favorable to them, however, might mean serious crop losses.

Fairly continuous rains in the spring and early summer of 1935 killed enormous numbers of first-brood bugs in small grains by drowning them or plastering them with mud. Fungous diseases, Doctor Annand says, were only a minor factor in reducing the outbreak. Only in southeastern Iowa and northwestern Illinois did the bugs seriously injure small grains in 1935, or migrate in large numbers to corn at harvest time.

The summer was more favorable to the chinch bugs, and a second brood developed on corn and foxtail in corn fields in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana, and on sorghums in central and eastern Oklahoma and eastern Kansas. By fall therefore, bugs, in moderately large to extremely large numbers, were going into hibernation in the Central states.

Greenhouse Is Ideal to Grow Early Vegetables

The ideal method of growing good, stocky vegetable plants for early spring planting is with a sash greenhouse and a cold frame. In the greenhouse, the sowing of seed and the transplanting of young seedlings may be done most efficiently and conveniently and the cold frame is used to acclimate the plants to outdoor conditions before they are set into the field.

A greenhouse has many advantages over the various other types of hotbeds. The operator has a more comfortable place to work and operations can progress without interruption even during stormy weather. Heat, moisture and ventilation may be easily controlled and there is less danger of the plants being injured by frost. The house is economical to operate as heat furnished by a heating system is less costly than heat supplied by manure.

Capacity of Horse's Stomach

The average capacity of a horse's stomach is from 15 to 18 liters or three to four gallons, according to an authority in the Montreal Herald. These figures were obtained from a very large number of observations and give the extreme size of stomach when distended. However, the organ is under the best physical condition for digestion when it is about two-thirds full. That is, when it contains from two to two and a half gallons of material. The above information does not necessarily mean that this quantity of material should be taken by a horse at any single meal, for the stomach is not usually completely emptied from one feeding to the next.

Controlling Erosion

Few of us appreciate fully the importance organic matter plays in controlling erosion, along with the greater production of crops it promotes. Soils well supplied with organic matter are more retentive of moisture, remain more friable, are easier to work, and are less likely to become hard or form a crust after rains. As the organic matter is increased the yields increase. In our farm practice there are three sources from which organic matter is usually supplied—farm manure, roots and stubbles left from crops, and green crops turned under.—Missouri Farmer.

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