

THE GOOD JUDGE CALLS AT MR. GINTY'S GARAGE

MAC, THAT WAS A GOOD CHAUFFEUR YOU SENT OUT WITH ME YESTERDAY

EVERY ONE OF THE BOYS LIKES THE REAL TOBACCO CHEW AND WORSHIPS THE GROUND YOU WALK ON

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Scientific Farming

WIREWORMS DESTRUCTIVE.

Control Measures Recommended For Different Species. [Prepared by United States department of agriculture.]

True, wireworms are reckoned by specialists in the United States department of agriculture as among the five worst pests to corn and among the twelve worst pests to wheat and oats. They attack many other crops as well, however, notably potatoes and sugar beets, and are considered one of the two most difficult groups of insects to control. To combat them successfully it is essential that the farmer should be able to recognize the various species and to distinguish them from other insects of somewhat similar appearance. To assist him in doing so the depart-



CORN AND COTTON WIREWORM—A, ADULT BEETLE; B, LARVA ENLARGED.

ment of agriculture has just published farmers' bulletin 725, "Wireworms Destructive to Cereal and Forage Crops," by J. A. Hyslop.

The wheat wireworm of the north-east and middle west is pale yellow, cylindrical and shiny. When full grown it is about one inch in length and about as thick as the lead in a pencil. It can be readily recognized by the two dark spots near the base of the tail. Normally it feeds upon grass roots and produces no disturbance in the meadows. When the sod is broken, however, the insects gather in the drill rows or hills and destroy the seed or eat off the roots of the plants which sprout. In this way the crop often is absolutely destroyed.

To control the wheat wireworm land intended for corn should be plowed immediately after the first cutting of hay, usually early in July. Throughout the remainder of the summer this land should be cultivated deeply. Badly infested land in corn should also be deeply cultivated even at the risk of slightly root pruning the corn. As soon as the crop is removed the field should be very thoroughly tilled before sowing to wheat. Wheat fields that are not seeded to other crops should be plowed as soon as the wheat is harvested. This kills the worms by destroying their food supply and preventing proper hibernation. Where circumstances permit, interposing between sod and corn such crops as field peas and buckwheat, which are not severely attacked by wireworms, will materially reduce the number of worms in the soil when corn is planted.

Corn wireworms damage cereal and forage crops in the middle Atlantic states, the New England states and the Mississippi valley. They are reddish brown in color, about one and one-fourth inches long, cylindrical in shape and have three slight lobes or projections on the tail. These insects spend a considerably longer time in the soil than the wheat wireworm. In some cases they have been known to live in the ground as long as six years. On the other hand, they are almost exclusively confined to poorly drained and heavy soils. For this reason heavy liming and thorough tile draining will undoubtedly prove beneficial in their control. The thorough cultivation of waste land, especially along drainage ditches and creeks during midsummer, and the deep cultivation of crops and fallow land are also recommended.

Meadow wireworms attack corn, potatoes, onions, cabbage, radishes, turnips, horseradish, spinach, sugar beets and alfalfa. In the northwest they are most destructive on irrigated lands and in the east on poorly drained areas. They look very much like the dry land wireworm, but can be easily distinguished from other varieties by their forked tails. They do not usually attack beans or peas, and the planting of these crops before seeding to corn would therefore assist in controlling the pest. The thorough tilling of infested fields in eastern areas and the heavy liming of the land at the rate of about two tons to the acre, together with deep cultivation during July and August are other measures that specialists recommend for their control.

The dry land wireworm and the in-

stated wireworm of the west are very similar in appearance and seem to be confined to the dry farming regions of the northwest and to the wheat regions of the northern middle west.

In the dry land regions this wireworm feeds only during spring. The hot, dry months it passes at a depth of from four to eight inches below the surface. This habit makes it possible to control the pest by breaking up the soil in the hot months. The resting wireworms that are not actually crushed by the cultivation will soon succumb to drying when their cells are broken open. In infested regions in the northwest, therefore, farmers are recommended to disk or drag harrow the summer fallow as early as possible in the spring in order to produce a dust mulch. The disking should be continued as often as is necessary to maintain this mulch and to keep down the weeds. In July or early in August the summer fallow should be plowed and immediately afterward dragged. As soon as the crop is removed the stubble should be plowed. This method of handling land will not only kill off many of the insects, but will materially reduce the weeds. The early disking merely softens the soil and allows the weed seeds to sprout. These are subsequently destroyed by the summer plowing.

In conclusion, the new bulletin of the department of agriculture points out that various so called remedies for wireworms have been found quite useless. Among these is the use of various substances upon the seed corn and wheat. Certain commercial fertilizers which have been recommended as insecticides have also proved worthless in this respect. The application of lime is not effective as an insecticide, but is of value in rendering the soil more easily drained. Late fall plowing appears to be without effect. Trapping the worms with baits of poisoned vegetables is impracticable in the case of field crops, although it may be of some value in intensive farming.

Fish for Planting

Tribune:—Fully a million young trout will be available for planting in the streams of central Idaho this season and residents of the various sections can secure these young trout by making application thru Deputy Warden R. B. Hibbs, of Lewiston. Mr. Hibbs now has the necessary blanks and these will be sent out on application, the applicant to furnish the necessary postage.

The state maintains two hatcheries in the northern part of the state to restock the north Idaho streams. The funds for the maintenance of these plants is derived from the sale of fish and game licenses and the fines collected for violation of the fish and game laws. No state appropriation or tax is made for the hatcheries or other fish and game department, all funds for these purposes coming from the sources indicated above.

This arrangement gives the sportsman a special interest in the operation of the hatcheries and the enforcement of the fish and game laws. The sportsman are also much interested in the distribution of the young fish but the application must mostly come from the people residing in the sections where the fish are to be planted.

The Lewiston sportsmen have in the years past made the distribution for sections of Lapwai, Webb, Hatwai, Lindsay, Sweetwater, Deer and Eagle creeks and automobiles are used to carry the young trout from the fish cars to the places of planting. These are the only creeks that are within reach of Lewiston and it is hoped there will be a good demand by residents of the other localities to secure a sufficient number of fish to restock the streams.

The applications are sent in by Deputy Warden Hibbs and those making application are notified when the fish car will reach the station where they have designated the delivery to be made. The only requirement on those making applications is that they meet the car when the notification is given and that they follow the instructions of the superintendent of the car as to the handling and planting the fish.

During the warm weather ice is provided to place in and about the cans in which the fish are delivered. This makes necessary special precautions when the fish are released in the streams as too sudden change of temperature results in the killing of a large per cent of the young fish.

There is a story going around that a Latah county man got a permit to buy a quart of alcohol with which to clean his typewriter. He is his own typewriter.—Star-Mirror

fair and cooler

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