Kent oats - A promising new variety for early grazing in the South-West

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NEW INSECTICIDES FOR HOUSEFLY CONTROL

FOR some years DDT has been used with more or less success against the housefly. It and the related insecticides, chlordane and dieldrin, belong to the group known as the chlorinated hydrocarbons and all have been used extensively as residual fly-sprays. Although initially satisfactory results were obtained, resistant strains of insects have emerged over a period of years and these sprays have become less and less effective.

The toxicity to humans of another insecticide group—the organic phosphates (which includes "Hexone" and parathion) —has until recently precluded their wholesale use against the housefly. However, with the development of new and relatively harmless members of this group the organic phosphates can now be expected to play a very important role in fly control.

The most promising of these are malathion, diazinon and dipterex. In recent tests each has been shown to give excellent kills and they are especially useful against the resistant populations mentioned above.

Malathion.

This insecticide first became generally available in Western Australia in 1955 and because of its comparatively low human toxicity rating and comparable insecticidal properties displaced parathion in the control of lucerne flea and a number of other pests. It was found to be particularly effective against the housefly when used as a wet sugar bait. In this form it has given good control in dairies and poultry sheds when applied to posts, walls, concrete floors, etc. The bait should be prepared according to the following formula.

1 oz. 50 per cent. malathion.
1 lb. sugar.
1 gallon water.

Diazinon.

This material has been tested both as a dry bait preparation and as a residual spray. Spectacular kills have been achieved with 0.5 per cent. spray at which concentration the insecticide has been observed to retain its killing power for some weeks.

Satisfactory results have also been obtained with the diazinon dry bait formulation. This material is available in special dispensers and should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.

Dipterex.

As with diazinon, this new "phosphatic" insecticide has given excellent results as a residual fly spray. At the recommended dilution rate of 1 oz. in 3 gallons only small quantities are required. Good kills have also been observed with this material some weeks after application.
Despite the fact that the insecticides discussed show great promise it must be emphasised that such treatments can only give control when the necessary attention is paid to general hygiene and the disposal of manure. On no account should baits and sprays be used as an alternative to the more fundamental activities.

The upper picture shows a dish containing untreated moist fowl droppings placed in a fly-infested fowl run. It was soon harbouring a large number of fly maggots.

The lower picture shows the results of treating similar material with 0.5% diazinon. No maggots developed, the manure was covered with dead flies, and the dish was surrounded by flies killed by contact.
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