Insect pests and their control - Red spider control (Preliminary report of experiments)

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EXPERIMENTAL work was carried out in January, February and March of 1958 in order to test various insecticides and miticides for the control of red spider, Tetranychus telarius (L).

A fully replicated experiment was laid out using Westralia beans as the host plants. The following materials and concentrations were used:

- Metasystox—1 pint per 125 gallons.
- Diazinon—4 pints per 100 gallons.
- Trithion—1 lb. per 100 gallons.
- Parathion 20%—1 pint per 100 gallons.
- Mitox—2 lb. per 100 gallons.
- Phosdrin—28 oz. per 100 gallons.
- Malathion 50%—25 oz. per 100 gallons.
- Malathion + Ovobane—25 oz. Malathion 50%, 1 lb. Ovobane, per 100 gallons.
- Parathion + Shellamite—1 pint Parathion 20%, 1 lb. Shellamite, per 100 gallons.
- Aramite 10% P.C.P.P.C.B.S. 5%—4 lb. per 100 gallons.

The statistical analysis of the experiment showed metasystox, trithion, and diazinon to be vastly superior to the other materials tested. These three materials were further tested on commercial crops with excellent results.

In view of the information yielded by the bean experiments, trials were also conducted into the control of red spider on apple trees. Metasystox, trithion and diazinon were applied with a Turbomist.
machine in a commercial orchard. This resulted in a very satisfactory control of red spider, whereas trees similarly treated with malathion were heavily infested.

Further work is planned for the coming season to fully evaluate these materials and to test other recently released miticides.

REFERENCES

Jenkins (1955) gives a full description of the life cycle and habits of the red spider.


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