Control of summer weeds around apple trees

N H. Shorter
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Mid to late November sprays with residual herbicides give...

control of summer weeds around apple trees

seasonal reminder by N. H. Shorter, Horticultural Adviser, Bunbury

THE application of residual herbicides around the butts of irrigated apple trees early in summer has given good control of summer-growing weeds in recent experiments, as well as in a number of commercial orchards.

While herbicides are widely used for winter weed control, their use on summer weeds is a comparatively recent development. The summer sprays eliminate the dense growth of summer weeds such as fat hen and nightshade.

The most outstanding results have been obtained around trees where heavy germination and vigorous growth of fat hen have been troublesome in previous years. Sprays applied in mid to late November, when the weeds were only 2 to 3 in. high and within about a month after germination, have destroyed all newly-germinated weeds. The herbicide also kills weed seeds germinating for about 12 weeks after. Sprayed areas have remained completely free of weeds for the rest of the summer and there has been some reduction in weed growth in the following winter.

Similar results can be obtained with most other summer-growing weeds, and
benefits will be greatest in orchards where vigorous weed growth has been a serious problem.

The timing of sprays is important. They should be applied before the first germination or within a few weeks after. This gives lasting and economical control of most summer weeds.

These recommendations apply mostly to apple trees, but pears and stone fruit can be treated in the same way.

Detailed information on weed control in orchards is given in Department of Agriculture Bulletin 3337—"The Control of Weeds in Orchards."

### Recommendations for summer weed control in apple orchards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeds to Spray</th>
<th>Time of Application</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Trade Names</th>
<th>Amount in 100 gallons</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadleafed summer weeds:</td>
<td>Within four weeks</td>
<td>Diuron 80*</td>
<td>Karmex, Diuron</td>
<td>3 lb.</td>
<td>One pint of this mixture is sufficient to treat a circle 6 ft. in diameter around one tree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fat hen, Nightshade, Prince of</td>
<td>of germination</td>
<td>or Atrazine 80*</td>
<td>Primatol A.</td>
<td>3 lb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wales Feather</td>
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<td>Annual summer grasses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crabgrass</td>
<td>Active growth period</td>
<td>Amitrol 24% + D.P.A.</td>
<td>Weedazol Banana Total</td>
<td>4½ lb.</td>
<td>Apply as a thorough spray, yet without excessive runoff. Use only low pressure (50 to 80 p.s.i.) Respray after 3 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Two to three ounces of wetting agent should be added to these spray mixtures. Conventional spraying equipment can be used if rinsed thoroughly after use.