Pest Control Topic Of Item County Article

By Agricultural Extension Service, Los Angeles County

People of this world are always seeking some record-trying to have the biggest of this, or the smallest of that, or the most of something else. Maybe we have another record. While nobody has counted the aphids either this year or any other year, the number that are on everything this year might well constitute a record.

Record or no record, they are a menace to the health of all the plants. In addition to their direct damage, they carry some diseases. That makes the importance of getting rid of them even greater.

The best control for aphids is nicotine sulphate, better known as Black Leaf 40. It is scarce and impossible to get in large quantities for commercial use, but manufacturers are putting up small bottles containing one to four ounces for retail sale. They are on drug stores and nursery supply shelves quite generally.

One teaspoonful of nicotine sulphate, or Black Leaf 40, to a gallon of water (1-800) plus a little soap or one of the detergents (soapless soaps) will make a spray that will kill most aphids. Some of the very large kinds, particularly when they are fully mature, may need a 1-600—use one and one-half teaspoonfuls to a gallon.

There are other materials which are not as effective as nicotine sulphate, but which if used when the aphids are small will do a good job. Probably the best substitutes are rotenone or pyrethrum. DDT will kill some aphids, but it also will kill the insects that eat aphids. Therefore, when the aphids come back for a second attack the field is wide open and they really go to town. For this reason DDT is not satisfactory.

All these materials are effective in dust form. Therefore, if you can find the dusts and have a good duster, they're o.k.

The secret of control is not only to have the right material, but to apply it throughly. Because aphids are sucking insects, the spray or dust has to actually hit them. Do a good job when you apply the material. It is particularly important to kill the winged aphids. They are the "stem mothers" and are flying in large numbers now. You may have to spray once a week because a new crop will come right in and take over.

Last Units Of State Guard Inactivated

The last remaining units of California's wartime State Guard were mustered out of the state service on May 31, Brig. General Curtis D. O'Sullivan, adjutant general of California, announced.

Final units mustered out were the 1st and 7th battalions, 29th regiment, and the 1st battalion, 39th regiment, all of them organized in Los Angeles.

Disbandment of the State Guard marks the end of five and a half years service by thousands of Californians who wore the uniform of the state's wartime military force. At its peak strength in 1942 the California State Guard totaled 16,000 officers and men.

The State Guard was officially organized on January 2, 1941, after the first units of the California National Guard were called to active federal duty. The California National Guard after combat in both the Pacific and European theaters was returned to state control last year and has now activated nearly 200 units in communities throughout the state.

Units of the 2nd Battalion, 39th Regiment, were mustered out March 31. Company H, Torrance, then commanded by Maj. R. L. Lewellen, assistant executive officer of the 578th Combat Engineers, California National Guard, was mustered out at that time.

FLY FISHING PROSPECTS

Fly fishing should be first-rate on opening day along the Kern river in Kern county. Good fishing should also be had opening day along Cedar, Lumroe, Poso, Deer, Tyler, Parker, Basin, Bull Run creeks, and White river in this same region.

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