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The 1929 Distribution of White Grubs in Iowa

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THE 1929 DISTRIBUTION OF WHITE GRUBS IN IOWA

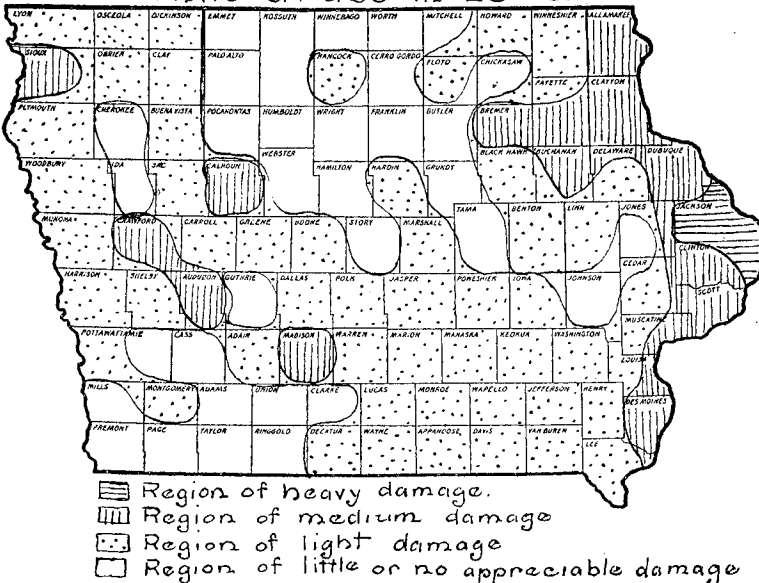
H. E. JAUQUES

The farmcrops of Iowa pay a heavy toll annually to insects. While many species figure in this loss to the farmers, a comparatively small number of species are responsible for a very large percentage of the total destruction.

White grubs, the larval form of the May beetle, find place among these most destructive forms and if taken over a considerable period of years should likely be ranked most expensive of all.

Nearly all of the more than thirty species of May beetles known to occur in the state have apparently a three year life cycle. The adults appear in the spring and lay their eggs in May and June. The young grubs which hatch in midsummer are small and rather inoffensive for that year. During the following summer their size and appetites have increased until throughout the growing season they offer a continuous menace to plant roots. Except for a few

The 1929 Infestation (Brood C)
of White Grubs in Iowa



weeks of early spring, the third summer is spent in the pupa stage with no damage to crops.

There are three broods of May beetles in Iowa with all stages in evidence every year. From time to time the writer has mapped Brood A, which appeared as destructive grubs in 1921, 1924, 1927, etc. The loss due to this brood is well known and farmers in the infested areas look forward to the year of their appearance in making their farm plans.

More recently a survey of the two less offensive broods has been made each year of their appearance. The accompanying map shows the distribution of grubs of "brood C" for the growing season of 1929. While severe damage was sustained in only a small part of eastern Iowa, a number of counties came in for distinct loss as shown by the regions marked for medium damage. The general widespread distribution, involving more than two-thirds of the state, is interesting and reveals serious possibilities for future years.

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