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# EC58-124 Potato Disease and Insect Control Recommendations for 1958

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# Potato Disease and Insect Control Recommendations for 1958

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Bob Roselle and John Weihing

Extension Service University of Nebraska College of Agriculture and U. S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating W. V. Lambert, Director

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POTATO INSECT CONTROL

INSECT	INSECTICIDE & FORMULATION	AMOUNT PER ACRE	ACTUAL INSECTICIDE PER ACRE
TUBER FLEA BEETLES	Aldrin, 4 lbs./gal.	5 pints	2.5 pounds
	Heptachlor, 2 lbs./gal.	3 quarts	1.5 pounds
	Dieldrin, 1.5 lbs./gal.	1 gallon	1.5 pounds

Apply the insecticide in water evenly to the seedbed and work lightly into the soil before planting. If Terrachlor is used as a row treatment for potato scab control, use a combination of Terrachlor with aldrin, heptachlor, or dieldrin at 1/2 the above rates.

WIREWORMS	DDT, 2 lbs./gal.	5 gallons	10 pounds
	Aldrin, 4 lbs./gal.	3 quarts	3 pounds
	Heptachlor, 2 lbs./gal.	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> gallons	3 pounds

LEAF HOPPERS

Apply the insecticide in water evenly to the seedbed and work lightly into the soil before planting. Wireworm control recommendations will control all other important soil insects.

FLEA BEETLES PLANT BUGS DDT, 2 lbs./gal. 3 quarts 1 pound DDT, 5% dust 30 pounds 1.5 pounds Malathion, 5 lbs./gal. 2 pints 1.3 pounds Malathion, 5% dust 1.25 pounds 25 pounds COLORADO POTATO BEETLE & FLEA BEETLE DDT, 2 lbs./gal. ADULTS 2 quarts 1 pound DDT, 5% dust 30 pounds 1.5 pounds 1/3 gallon Dieldrin, 1.5 lbs./gal. 1.5 pounds Heptachlor, 2 lbs./gal. 3/4 pound 3 pints APHIDS DDT, 2 lbs./gal. 2 quarts 1 pound Malathion, 5 lbs./gal. 2 pints 1.3 pounds Dieldrin, 1.5 lbs./gal. GRASSHOPPERS 2/3 pint 2 ounces Aldrin, 4 lbs./gal. 1/2 pint 4 ounces Heptachlor, 2 lbs./gal. 4 ounces 1 pint BLISTER BEETLES DDT, 2 lbs./gal. 1 gallon 2 pounds Toxaphene, 6 lbs./gal. 1/3 gallon 2 pounds POTATO PSYLLTDS DDT, 2 lbs./gal. 2 quarts 1 pound DDT, 5% dust 30 pounds 1.5 pounds

A regular seasonal control program for psyllids on early potatoes consists of repeated applications of DDT every 10 to 14 days, beginning when potatoes are about 6 inches high. This is essential when psyllids are numerous during the growing season. On late potatoes, it is feasible only if the infestation warrants. High pressure equipment, or nozzles on extensions from a spray boom, are recommended. This will allow the spray to reach the undersides of the leaves. When psyllids are not numerous the following schedules are recommended:

On nonirrigated potatoes, make one application of DDT according to the above recommendations when potatoes are six inches high. Repeat applications according to the psyllid situation as it develops and is reported.

On irrigated potatoes, make the first application of DDT when potatoes are six inches high. Repeat this application in 14 days, then repeat applications according to the psyllid situation as it develops and is reported.

Psyllid control with DDT can be combined with late blight control.

Psyllid control programs with DDT will control nearly all leaf-feeding insects of potatoes in Nebraska. DDT is not effective against grasshoppers.

OTHER INSECTICIDES FOR PSYLLID CONTROL NOT RECOMMENDED IN 1958

- ENDRIN: Endrin has been reported to be effective for psyllid control. It has not been tested in Nebraska. Other states and the U.S.D.A. have not recommended it for psyllids to date. If endrin is used, 1 pint per acre is suggested. Endrin is one of the most toxic chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides and must be handled with extreme care. Operators should use protective clothing and respirators.
- DEMETRON: This material is marketed as Systox. It is recommended by Colorado at the rate of 1 1/2 pints per acre. It is systemic and cannot be used within 21 days of harvest. It is an extremely hazardous insecticide and should be used only by commercial spray operators with experience and adequate insurance. It is very expensive for a psyllid control program.
- PARATHION: Parathion is not generally recommended in Nebraska for two reasons: (1) There is little research information available on potato psyllid control, and (2) Parathion is extremely hazardous, and should never be used by or recommended to farmers. If it is used, the following general precautions must be observed:
  - 1. Parathion should be applied only by commercial spray operators who have protective equipment, gas masks, and adequate liability insurance. For their own safety and the safety of others, operators must be familiar with symptoms of parathion poisoning and antidotes for it. They should have atropine sulfate tables on their person, and inform local doctors that they are using this material.
  - 2. Before application, fields should be posted clearly on all sides to indicate that a dangerous insecticide has been used, and warning all persons to stay out of the field. Signs should remain posted for three days.

3. During application, operators should never work alone, and fields should be flagged with stakes rather than by flagmen. The drift should be watched very carefully. Parathion should be applied only on a calm day.

BHC NOT RECOMMENDED FOR POTATO INSECT CONTROL OR FOR SOIL TREATMENT WHERE POTATOES MAY BE PLANTED IN THE FUTURE.

BHC (Benzene hexachloride) will be absorbed by potatoes and impart a musty flavor to the tubers. In the past, it has been used as a soil treatment for corn rootworms, and in several cases potatoes planted in the same ground have been unusable. BHC should not be used as a soil treatment if potatoes may be planted in the same ground in the future. Aldrin or heptachlor may be used for corn rootworm control and will not leave undesirable residues in the soil.

## RECOMMENDED FUNGICIDAL CHEMICALS FOR POTATOES

DISEASE	FUNGICIDE	RATE	METHOD OF APPLICATION	TIME OF APPLICATION	COMMENTS
Scab and black scurf	Pentachloronitro- benzene (PCNB)	Light sandy loam-50 lbs. actual PCNB/A Heavy silt loam-60 lbs. actual PCNB/A	Band treatment	Just prior to planting	
		Light sandy loam-100 lbs. actual PCNB/A Heavy silt loam-120 lbs. actual PCNB/A	Broadcast treatment	A AND A AND A	
Seed treatment for seed-borne scab	Formaldehyde	See method of application	Dip uncut potatoes for 3 to 4 minutes into a solution of 1 pint of formalde- hyde in 15 gallons of water kept at 121 <sup>0</sup> F. Drain and dry.	Four to six weeks before planting.	Treating seed pota- toes with hot formaldehyde will materially aid in keeping scab in check when such treated tubers are planted in relatively scab-free soil.
Early and late blight	Maneb	2# of 70% material/100 gals. of water. 100-150 gals./A.	High pressure spray (300 lbs. or greater)	When notified through public warning service. Those who wish to carry	
	Zineb	2# of 65% material/100 gals. of water. 100-150 gals./A.	A wetting agent should be added.	out a spray schedule should make first appli- cation when plants are	
	Nabam + Zinc Sulfate	2 quarts of 19% nabam + 1# zinc sulfate $/100$ gals. water		6-8 inches high and repeat every two weeks. If weather becomes favor-	
	Bordeaux Mixture	8# copper sulfate + 8# hydrated lime in 100 gals. water.		able for late blight deve- lopment, it will be necessary to spray once	
	Fixed copper	Follow manufacturer's directions.		a week until harvest.	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Treatment of cut seed potatoes for seed piece	Captan	1 1/2 lbs. of 7.5% dust per 100 lbs. cut seed pieces	Any method which will permit thorough coating of cut sur-	Immediately after cut- ting the tubers. The treated tubers should	This treatment is most beneficial when planting conditions
	Zineb	1 1/2 lbs. of 10% dust per 100 lbs. cut seed pieces.	faces with fungicidal dust.	be planted as soon as possible after treatment.	are unfavorable.
Disinfection of storage cellars, bins, crates, graders, etc., for ring rot control.	Copper sulfate Copper A compound Cuprocide Tribasic copper sulfate	6 lbs./100 gals. water 4 lbs./100 gals. water 2 lbs./100 gals. water 2 1/2 lbs./100 gals. water	Thoroughly spray all potato storage cellars, machinery, etc.	Prior to storage or use of any of the equipment.	