

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

D. P. TRENT, Director

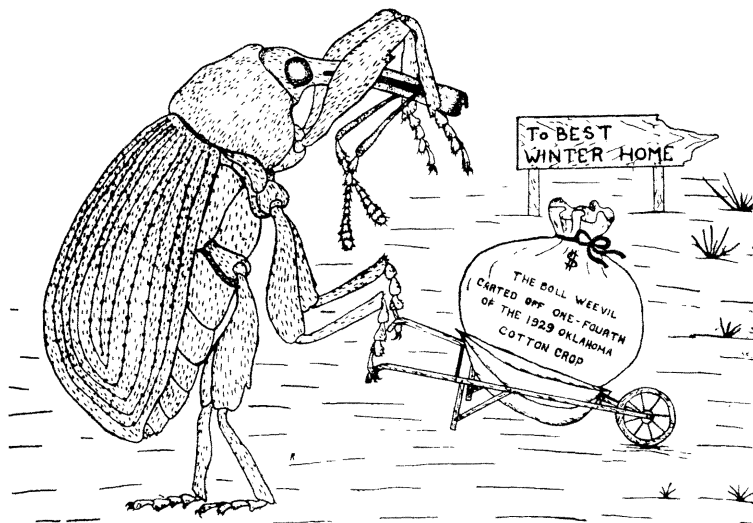
OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND
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COUNTY AGENT WORK
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

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The
Boll Weevil Battle
is on
NOW

C. E. SANBORN, Entomologist



HERE IS HOW TO DO IT
BURY HIM, STARVE HIM, BURN HIM,
FREEZE HIM, THEN POISON ANY SURVIVORS

**PICK COTTON AND DESTROY THE PLANTS EARLY IN ORDER
TO DESTROY THE WEEVIL**

The boll weevil remains in the field until frost, feeds, thrives and gets fat upon the green buds, squares and tender leaves of the cotton, preparing himself for the lean winter months.

By killing all cotton plants early, the weevil's only food is destroyed. If plants are not killed by being properly uprooted, plowed under or cut off, a second growth may ensue, which the weevils can find and live on until frost.

For best results, all cotton plants should be killed at least a month before frost. If they are allowed to remain green in the field until the weevils have had an opportunity to develop on them (as they can by the thousands) they can eat until the very last minute and be fully fed for the winter.

The boll weevil is a southern or warm climate bug. Only a small percentage is able to live through a normal Oklahoma winter. They must have cotton squares or tender cotton buds, or green leaves until frost, in order to be in the pink of condition for winter. If they do not have proper food before frost they will become devitalized searching for food, and many will perish before cool weather permits them to hibernate. Starving and freezing can be forced on the weevil if all cotton plants are killed one month before frost.

Furthermore, additional hordes of weevils will not only be prevented from developing, but the old weevils will face starvation on top of one month added to their winter time. **By all means kill the cotton plants early!**

**PLOW EARLY AND TURN UNDER ALL GREEN PLANTS.
BURY HIM ALIVE!**

After stalks have been plowed up or cut the field that can be turned under without risk of damage by blowing or washing should be plowed or listed early. If green cotton plants are plowed under early, i. e., before frost, boll weevil development will be permanently and absolutely stopped. Nearly all weevils and many other injurious insects will be buried alive. Those escaping will be forced to die or endure an additional month of winter conditions. The weevil has the 'possum habit and thousands of them can be easily plowed under with the green plants. **Plow early in order to turn under all green plants, and the weevils which are on them. Bury them alive!**

**BURN BRUSH, WEEDS, GRASS AND TRASH
WHICH CANNOT BE PLOWED UNDER**

Clean culture gives relief from a multitude of insects and plant diseases. Brush piles filled with leaves or overgrown with grass and weeds are elegant winter bug houses. Any trash, such as accumulates in gin yards that should not be burned, ought to be buried or kept in weevil-proof enclosures. Some gin yards are the source of local boll weevil infection every year. Weeds and grass on ditch banks, creek and braw banks, fence corners and fence rows, waste fields and nondescript trash piles should all, except bird refuges, be burned soon after frost, or at least before December 10. Bird refuges should not be destroyed until spring when winter protection is no longer needed. Cane and corn fields afford little protection for weevils but are excellent for game birds to feed in and seek shelter during the winter. **Burn him out of house and home and freeze him!**

POISON ANY SURVIVORS

The boll weevil always passes the winter in the adult stage and emerges in the spring about the time the young cotton begins to come up and the only place that a young weevil is hatched is in a cotton square or young boll. No new weevils are born until nature has provided cotton squares. Any method of destruction that will decrease the number of weevils that live through winter ready to lay eggs as soon as the squares appear, will decrease the resultant crop of weevils at the rate of many millions per pair. It is estimated that one pair of weevils not molested, and barring all accidents, will produce 12,000,000 weevils during the season. **Poison these survivors!**

Molasses mixtures with calcium arsenate have been extensively used in many sections of the cotton growing states. A good formula for home preparation is as follows:

1 lb. calcium arsenate
1 gal. molasses
1 gal. water

Thoroughly mix one pound of calcium arsenate and one gallon of water. Stir this vigorously until a light milky fluid is obtained. Then, add one gallon of syrup or molasses and stir some more.

Mix and always use fresh.

Molasses-arsenate mixture may be applied without the use of expensive machinery, a small dish mop and a tin bucket are all the implements required. It has the advantage of remaining on the cotton plant longer than other sprays. The first application should be made on the young cotton plants as soon as the weevils that are overwintering can be found at the rate of 1 to 2 weevils to 100 cotton plants, and repeat at intervals of a week until they are under control.

It is not claimed that any of the above directions will kill all of the weevils, but all of them will kill some of the weevils and aid in the control of the pest. The present high price of cotton and the prospects for a fair price next year should warrant the exertion of every effort to control the weevil and to produce the maximum yield per acre. If you are going to poison, by all means be prepared to poison when the first weevils appear.

POISON RIGHT OR NOT AT ALL!

IT IS POSSIBLE TO PLANT FEWER ACRES OF COTTON AND MAKE MORE PROFIT

More profit and a better living can be had if home products are raised for the family. Arrange to plant plenty of potatoes, peas, beans, peanuts, garden vegetables, fruits and feedstuffs, corn on bottom land and grain sorghums on other lands. Look out for the hen, the bee, the calf and the pig; and eggs, honey, butter, milk, beef, pork and chicken will follow. Then arrange to plant cotton if desirable, but plant no more than can be hoed and picked without hiring help. Seldom does a farmer make any money on cotton if he hires it hoed and picked. This procedure will hold equally true whether the boll weevil prevails or not.

These directions for fighting the boll weevil cover the most vulnerable points in its Oklahoma living conditions.

STARVE THE BOLL WEEVIL

- 1. Pick Cotton Crop as soon as possible, so that the plants may be destroyed before frost.**
- 2. Kill all Cotton Plants early to destroy the weevil's food supply.**
- 3. Plow cotton fields early and turn under all plants thoroughly.**
- 4. Burn Brush, Weeds and Grass in and about the field which cannot be plowed under.**
- 5. Plant fewer acres of Cotton, protect better and raise more per acre at a better profit.**