

SEED CROP NOTES

October 11, 1967

Dear Seed Grower:

1966 ALFALFA VARIETY TRIALS

Enclosed is a reprint of the report concerning alfalfa variety trials at the West Side Field Station and experimental farm in Davis. These trials were planted in 1964 and yield data taken throughout the 1966 season. Please note that dormancy differences do occur between Davis and Five Points, therefore, direct yield comparisons between the trials should not be made.

WEED CONTROL

The enclosed article by Bill Sallee, Farm Advisor in Tulare County summarizes some of his work with seedling alfalfa weed

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 * in 1967 in Fresno County *
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control. Some of the materials reported in the article have not been registered for use in alfalfa although I am sure you will be interested in learning of the work done by Bill.

CHALCID VS SUCKING INSECT DAMAGE SURVEY

I made a survey of several fields from Helm to Coalinga during August and September. This survey was intended to give an idea of the percent chalcid damage and percent sucking insect damage in the 1967 seed crops. A few mill samples were also drawn with the assistance of Hollis Green at Huron. The chart below indicates a few of the samples taken from representative areas of the county south of Helm.

ALFALFA SEED DAMAGE SURVEY September, 1967

Field Samples Before Harvesting

<u>Ranch</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>% Chalcid Damage</u>	<u>% Sucking Insect Damage</u>
Helm	Moapa	8%	13%
South Five Points		9%	18%
West Five Points	525	16%	29%
W.S.F.S.	Ranger	6%	16%
North Coalinga	525	2%	8%

Mill Samples

Five Points	Moapa	8%	24%
North Huron	Ranger	3%	19%
Kings County	Sonora	2%	15%
Coalinga	Arnim	3%	10%
Kern County	522	1%	14%

Evidently the roadside spray program is doing some good in continuing to reduce the percent chalcid damage. Individual ranch efforts in the fall--clean-up practices and alfalfa seedling control play even a larger part in this program. The relatively high percent of sucking insect damage (lygus and stinkbug) indicates incomplete lygus control.

FALL IRRIGATION FOR ALFALFA SEED

A deep irrigation at this time will undoubtedly pay handsome dividends during next years' seed harvest. Irrigation will help to germinate volunteer alfalfa and weed seeds so that these seedlings can be destroyed by cultivation before December and thus avoid heavy disking in the spring, which would result in damaged alfalfa crowns.

A deep irrigation in the fall (12" - 18" of water) will provide a reservoir of moisture in the soil for next years alfalfa growth. Water is generally available at this time, however, during the summer it is difficult to apply water to all row crops in the quantity needed.

KNOW YOUR WEEDS

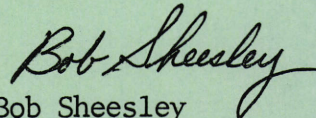
Bill Fischer, weed control Farm Advisor in Fresno County suggests the use of the enclosed weed infestation record. This little card can prove very helpful to growers if they will complete a card for each of their fields. It is suggested that it be used three times during the growing season. 1. Soon after crop emergence. 2. Mid-season. 3. Before harvest.

Intelligent use of herbicides is based on first knowing what weeds are present and when they are present. In using this card you may want to indicate a degree of weed infestation by using a numbering system of 0 - 5. Zero indicating no infestation and 5 indicating quite heavy infestation.

CERTIFIED ALFALFA SEED ACREAGES APPROVED IN 1967 IN FRESNO COUNTY

<u>Variety</u>	<u>1967 Acreage Approved</u>
Atlantic	80
Buffalo	911
Caliverde 65	1,426
Cody	690
Culver	564
Lahontan	1,544
Mesa Sersa	195
Moapa	2,970
Narragasett	310
Ranger	6,893
Sonora	1,442
Vernal	302
Washoe	274
Williamsburg	270
Proprietary	<u>8,154</u>
Total:	26,025

Sincerely,



Bob Sheesley
Farm Advisor

Enclosures - Weed Infestation Record
Weed Control in Seedling
Alfalfa