

1966

## EC66-1509 Insect Control Guide for Corn and Sorghum in Nebraska

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## INSECT CONTROL GUIDE FOR CORN AND SORGHUM

### NEBRASKA

Compiled by Extension Entomologists  
University of Nebraska  
College of Agriculture and Home Economics

Insect control suggestions in this guide are based on University of Nebraska research results, U.S.D.A. recommendations, and label registrations. Insect controls are not perfect. The suggestions are designed to benefit Nebraska farmers when they need control programs.

In some instances trade names have been used. No endorsement is implied by the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service and no discrimination is intended.

### TOXICITY OF INSECTICIDES

All insecticides are poisonous and must be used with caution. They should always be stored in the original container out of the reach of children, uninformed adults, and livestock. Empty containers must be burned or buried, and left-over materials disposed of by burying at least 18 inches in the soil away from water supplies. It is very important that the labels of every insecticide be studied until they are understood. Safety precautions and use instructions are on all labels. Follow these completely to avoid accidental poisoning or death, and to prevent illegal residues in crops.

The highly toxic insecticides in this publication are ethyl parathion, methyl parathion, endrin, and phosdrin. Skull and crossbones and the word Poison in red appear on the label of highly toxic materials. These chemicals are not recommended for farmer application. They must be applied only by well trained, responsible and insured commercial operators. Thimet and stabilized ethyl parathion are highly toxic materials. However, with proper precautions, farmers should be able to use them with safety as granular formulations for soil application to control corn rootworms.

Moderately Highly toxic insecticides are diazinon, dieldrin, toxaphene, aldrin, heptachlor, DDT, Dibrom (naled) and lindane. They must be used with special care. Familiarize yourself with all the warnings given on the labels.

Moderately toxic insecticides are Sevin (carbaryl) and malathion. When using these avoid all unnecessary exposure to the skin, lungs, and digestive system. Note the label cautions.

STUDY THE LABEL

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EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS AND  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING  
E. F. FROLIK, DEAN J. L. ADAMS, DIRECTOR



## CLASSES OF INSECTICIDES

The Chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides listed in this guide are toxaphene, dieldrin, aldrin, heptachlor, DDT, endrin, and lindane. These chemicals must not be used on corn or sorghum that will be harvested for ensilage, green feed, or pastured by dairy animals or beef animals that will be finished for slaughter. Sorghum grown for grain must not be treated with these insecticides. Corn adjacent to legumes, hay fields, or pastures should not be treated with chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides because these fields may become contaminated by drift.

The organic phosphate insecticides listed are diazinon, Thimet (phorate), ethyl parathion, methyl parathion, malathion, Dibrom (naled), and Phosdrin (mevinphos). Thimet and stabilized ethyl parathion as granules are for soil treatment only. Diazinon, ethyl parathion, methyl parathion, malathion, Dibrom and Phosdrin have a relatively short residual and are useful where corn and sorghum may be used for ensilage, green feed, or pasture after harvest, and for sorghum grown for grain. Even these insecticides can result in illegal residues if they are not used correctly, and if the specified waiting periods are not observed.

The carbamate insecticide listed in this publication is Sevin (carbaryl). The residue status is similar to organic phosphates.

Abbreviations: WP . . wettable powder      lbs./gal. . . pounds actual per gallon  
                   G . . granules                      Gal. . . gallon  
                   Pt . . pint                            Lbs. . . pounds  
                   QT . . quart                          D . . . dust

### SOIL INSECTS

INSECT	MATERIAL	AMOUNT PER ACRE	RESTRICTIONS
Corn rootworm larvae	Diazinon 14G	7 Lbs.	Apply at planting time in a 7" band over seed row, or at cultivating time on both sides of row.
	Thimet 10G	10 Lbs.	
	Stabilized ethyl parathion 10G	10 Lbs.	
Cutworms	Toxaphene 6 lbs./gal.	1/2 Gal.	Concentrate over row when damage is first observed. Endrin should be applied over the row or broadcast by experienced operators.
	Endrin 1/6 lb./gal.	1 Pt.	
	Aldrin 4 Lbs/Gal.	2 Qts.	Broadcast 2 to 3 weeks before planting or before replant. <u>For problem fields only. Do not use on fields that will be planted to root crops or legumes following corn or sorghum. Do not use in fields where run-off may occur.</u>
	Heptachlor 2 Lbs/Gal.	4 Qts.	
Sandhills cutworms	DDT 2 lbs./gal.	2 Qts.	Broadcast spray at first indication of damage. Do not feed treated plants to dairy animals, or beef being finished for slaughter.



INSECT	MATERIAL	AMOUNT PER ACRE	RESTRICTIONS
Wireworms	Aldrin 4 lbs./gal.	1 Qt.	Row spray at time of planting in infested fields.
	Heptachlor 2 lbs./gal.	2 Qts.	
Wireworms corn seed beetles corn seed maggots ants	Seed treatment with dieldrin, aldrin, hepta- chlor or lindane.		Follow package directions as to amounts per bushel of seed. Never mix treated seed with feed grains.

#### INSECTS ATTACKING PLANTS ABOVE SOIL

INSECT	MATERIAL	AMOUNT PER ACRE	RESTRICTIONS
Corn rootworm adults	Malathion 5 lbs./gal.	1½ Pts.	No restrictions
	Diazinon 4 lbs./gal.	1 Pt.	2 days
	Sevin 80% WP	1¼ Lbs.	No restriction. Sevin may result in mite buildup in corn.
Aerial application only	Parathion 4 lbs./gal.	1/2 Pt.	12 days
	LV malathion 95%	4 Oz.	No restrictions
Chinch bugs	Dieldrin 1½ lbs./gal.	3 Pts.	Use as barrier strips only. Do not graze or feed treated plants to <u>any class</u> of livestock.
	Toxaphene 6 lbs./gal.	1/3 Gal.	
	Parathion 4 lbs./gal.	1 Pt.	
European corn borers:	For corn that will be used for pasture, ensilage, or green feed:		
	Sevin 10G	15 Lbs.	1 day
	Diazinon 14G	7 Lbs.	10 days
	Sevin 80% WP	2 Lbs.	For ground sprays only
	For corn that will be used for grain only:		
	DDT 10G	10 Lbs.	Do not feed or pasture
	Endrin 2G	10 Lbs.	One application. 45 days. Do not feed or pasture.



INSECT	MATERIAL	AMOUNT PER ACRE	RESTRICTIONS
Grasshoppers	Malathion	1½ Pts.	No restrictions.
	5 lbs./gal.		
	Sevin 80% WP	2 Lbs.	No restrictions on corn. 21 days on milo grain.
	Diazinon	1-2 Pts.	2 days on corn. 15 days on sorghum.
	4 lbs./gal.		
	Dibrom	¾ Pt.	4 days
	8 lbs./gal.		
Spider mites	Parathion	1 Pt.	12 days
	4 lbs./gal.		
	2% parathion, 40% sulfur D	30 Lbs.	Western Nebraska
Webworms	Sevin 80% WP	2 Lbs.	No restrictions on corn. 21 days on milo grain.
Western bean cutworm	DDT 10G	10 Lbs.	Do not ensile or feed treated forage. For corn grown for grain only. Apply at tassel time.
	Endrin	1 Pt.	
	1.6 lbs./gal.		
Armyworms and fall armyworms	Sevin 80% WP	2 Lbs.	No restrictions on corn. 21 days on milo grain. Do not ensile or feed treated forage.
	Toxaphene	1 Qt.	
	6 lbs./gal.		

#### SORGHUM INSECTS

Corn earworms	Sevin 80% WP	2 Lbs.	21 days for grain.
	Phosdrin	1 Qt.	3 days. To be applied only by trained operators.
	2 lbs./gal.		
Corn leaf aphids	Malathion	1½ Pts.	5 days. Control is suggested only when infestation is severe at the time the head is in the boot or later.
	5 lbs./gal.		
Sorghum webworm	Same as for corn earworm		This insect is not known to occur in Nebraska at this time. It <u>might</u> occur in the future.
Wireworms	Seed treatment with		Follow package directions.
Thief ants	Aldrin, Heptachlor,		
Root aphids	Dieldrin or Lindane		