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March 1977

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O'Neal, W. B., "Meadow Vole Control with Ramik Brown" (1977). *Eastern Pine and Meadow Vole Symposia*. 131.
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Meadow Vole Control with Ramik Brown

W.B. O'Neal
Velsicol Chemical Corporation

A considerable amount of information has been generated regarding the use of Ramik for pine vole control. However, in many cases pine and meadow vole inhabit the same orchard. Also, there is some concern on efficacy and/or future availability of present treatments used for controlling meadow vole. With this in mind, many experiments were initiated to study the effect of Ramik on meadow vole. Information regarding three of these experiments is presented in this paper.

Lafayette, NY. An old orchard with young interplantings between older trees was used for this study. The orchard was divided into two sections; about six acres each, with one block for a control and one to be treated with Ramik. Snap traps were used for measuring relative infestations. All trappings were conducted with two traps per tree at 22 trees in each block. Four trap periods were used for each trapping session (pre and post treatment). Two periods were 18 hours each and the other two were 6 hours each. Pre-treatment trapping was done on 10/29-31/75. Initial and final post-treatment trappings were made on 11/19-21/75 and 12/16-18/75, respectively. Successive trappings were done at trees a minimum of two trees removed from previous trappings. Ramik at 10 LB/A, hand broadcast under the dripline, was applied on 10/31/75 and again on 11/21/75.

Apples from unpicked trees were numerous on the orchard floor, rainfall occurred immediately after the initial Ramik application and during the final application, meadow vole density was extremely high (captures average about 2.5 voles per tree), and the warm fall left lush green foliage on the orchard floor until late in November. Under these circumstances the initial Ramik application did not provide adequate control but with the follow-up application control was excellent. The results of this study are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. The effect of Ramik on meadow voles - Lafayette, NY.

Trapping Time	Number of Voles Captured*	
	Untreated	Ramik**
Pre-Treatment		
10/29-31/75	54	52
Initial Post-Treatment		
11/19-21/75	52	22
Final Post-Treatment		
12/16-18/75	46	3

*Total meadow vole captures per 22 trees (2 traps per tree) for four trap periods.

**Broadcast applications of 10 LB/A each applied on 10/31/75 and 11/21/75.

Stuyvesant, NY. Two adjacent blocks, 15 by 16 trees each, were used for this test. Three buffer rows were established within all sides