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DDT, DDD Use Halved by Next Year

SACRAMENTO (AP)—The State Agriculture Department hopes to cut the use of DDT and DDD in California in half next year with regulations proposed yesterday to ban 55 specific uses of the pesticides.

Agriculture Director Jerry W. Fielder said the proposed regulations would leave DDT and DDD in use only against pests which can't be controlled by pesticides which are less harmful to the environment.

The department already has adopted regulations to ban the use of DDT in homes and gardens next year and to eliminate its agricultural use in dust form.

Those regulations are the department's reaction to pressure from scientists and conservationists who say the chlorinated hydrocarbons pose a threat to wildlife and man because they retain their potency long after they are applied.

The legislature sent to Gov. Reagan early this month a bill to give Fielder's office greater control over registration and regulation of pesticides. But it rejected attempts to ban the use of DDT in California.

Since 1963 the state has had some control over the uses of the two chemicals which are used only under a permit issued by a county agricultural commissioner.

Fielder said the proposed regulations are based on a new report by Dr. J. E. Swift, statewide pesticide coordinator for the University of California's agricultural extension service.

Under Swift's recommendation, DDT and DDD would be prohibited on 35 food and fiber crops, 12 seed crops and eight other uses to control pests plaguing farm animals.

They would be allowed only in 13 problem areas where a suitable substitute has not been developed. These uses involve three buds: the cabbage looper, corn earworm and lygus bug.

University scientists also are looking for substitutes for the "hard" pesticides to use on commercially grown ornamentals, flowers, shrubs and other plants grown in greenhouses or nurseries.

Swift said he hopes the substitutes can be found in a couple of years.

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