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DDT EFFECTIVE ON TUSSOCK MOTH SUBSTITUTE PESTICIDE 'PROMISING'

The recent treatment with DDT of nearly 410,000 acres of Pacific Northwest fir forests infested with tussock moths is a resounding success, according to the U.S. Forest Service. The agency also reports encouraging results from its tests for a DDT substitute.

David Graham, tri-state coordinator for the massive undertaking, says almost all affected areas have been sprayed. The Environmental Protection Agency relaxed its ban on DDT last spring when other methods failed to control the moths.

A continuous surveillance system made it unnecessary to treat several thousand acres on which the insect

population did not develop as expected.

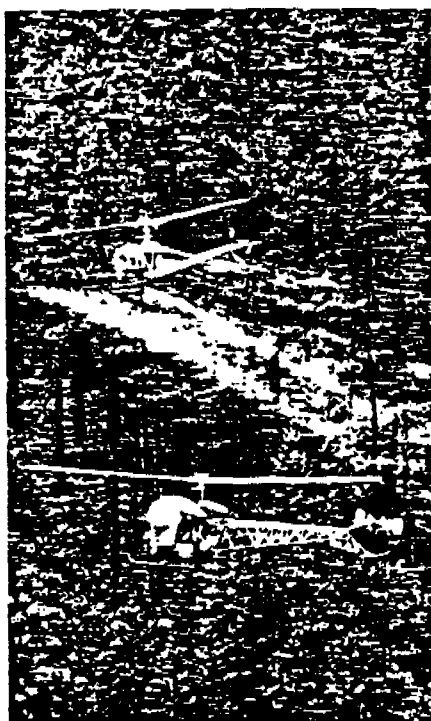
However, entomologists are continuing to watch the region to forestall a new outbreak.

According to Mr. Graham, all forests treated had high insect populations that were quickly and effectively reduced by the DDT.

Areas dosed with DDT were compared with other infested forests left untreated for environmental and research reasons.

The number of insects was determined on check trees in both treated and untreated timberlands 24 to 72 hours before spraying and four days afterwards. Preliminary data shows:

Area	Acres Treated	Larvae per 1000 square inches of foliage			
		Treated Trees		Untreated Trees	
		Pre-Spray	Post-Spray	Pre-Spray	Post-Spray
Colville, Wash.	176,000	69.7	2.0	44.6	25.2
Pomeroy, Wash.	16,400	17.0	0.2	6.0	3.0
La Grande, Ore.	27,500	25.7	0.3	23.1	8.8
Halfway, Ore.	34,900	28.0	0.5	15.6	11.3
Wallowa, Ore.	78,300	49.0	0.5	49.0	26.8
St. Joe, Idaho	75,300	27.0	0.5	10.5	9.4
Sawtooth, Idaho	1,100	10.1	0.4	10.0	4.2
Total	409,500	32.4	0.6	22.7	12.6



Helicopters spray DDT on tussock moths in Malheur National Forest, Ore.

Natural predators and biological factors account for the decline of moths in untreated areas.

Further evaluations of effectiveness will be made in the fall when all insect feeding has ended.

Preliminary observations indicate that all treatments were applied early and effectively enough to prevent most of the damage that would have otherwise occurred in 1974.

No adverse environmental damage has been observed, the Forest Service says. Unless new moth populations develop in different areas, no additional treatments will be necessary in 1975.

Testing of degradable chemical substitutes for DDT, now complete, has turned up at least one candidate.

Sevin 4 Oil, the Forest Service says, has considerable promise. Final evaluations of the tests will be completed during the next several months.

Rutgers University's computer center will be used in a national research project on possible health effects of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables.

NIOSH RECOMMENDS JOB CRITERIA FOR BENZENE, AMMONIA

Occupational exposure limits for benzene and ammonia have been recommended by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

For benzene, a maximum exposure of 25 parts per million in a sampling time of 10 minutes is suggested, with 10 ppm as a time-weighted average recommended for a 10-hour workday.

NIOSH's criteria document for ammonia recommends limits of 50 ppm in a five-minute period. Preplacement medical examinations would be required for anyone who might be exposed to ammonia concentrations exceeding 50 ppm.

PLASTICS ENGINEERS PLAN VC CONFERENCE

The Society of Plastics Engineers will host a conference for vinyl chloride monomer processors on the history and current aspects of the chemical October 31-November 1, in New York City.

The program will include a review of government regulations on VCM as applicable to industry, methods of detection and monitoring and techniques to reduce exposure. Medical aspects will not be discussed in detail.

Interested parties should contact A. E. Whitney Jr., Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., P.O. Box 2023, New Brunswick, N.J. 07102.

HYGIENISTS MEET

The American Industrial Hygiene Association will present a special course on industrial hygiene measurements in five locations during the next nine months.

Jointly sponsored by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, the course is intended for industrial hygienists, chemists, engineers and safety personnel who want additional training in air sampling techniques and measurements.

The course will be offered at:

Philadelphia	Oct. 7-18, 1974
Chapel Hill, N.C.	Nov. 11-22, 1974
Houston	Jan. 13-24, 1975
San Francisco	Feb. 10-21, 1975
Chicago	Mar. 10-21, 1975

Tuition is \$600. Classes will be limited to 30 students. For more information, contact William E. McCormick, managing director, AIHA, 66 South Miller Road, Akron, Ohio 44313.