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METHOD FOR DETERMINING PEA WEEVIL INFESTATION

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METHOD FOR DETERMINING PEA WEEVIL INFESTATION

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County agents, radio bulletins and published suggestions for the control of pea weevil for 1939 all recommend that a sweep net survey should be made and the infested areas marked off to indicate the parts to be dusted. The average number of weevils collected in 25 sweeps is generally employed in determining the infested areas.

Accurate results may be obtained by the following procedure in sweeping:

1. In sweeping, grasp the net firmly and walk through the peas parallel to the edge of the field taking one stroke with each step. A series of four 25 sweep samples is usually considered adequate. After the first series of sweeps at the edge of the field, move into the field from 50 to 100 feet and make another series of counts. Repeat this process until you find no more weevil or until you reach the center of the field. This is done to determine the actual infested area which will require dusting.
2. The net should be swung vigorously through the vines and not above them. The net should swing hard enough to take off from 3 to 5 tips in 25 sweeps.

In the case of canning and freezing peas a population average as low as one insect per 200 sweeps of the net is usually considered a dangerous infestation and dusting should be done. In the case of seed peas, five insects per 25 sweeps of the net can cause a 20% infestation by harvest. It would probably be worthwhile to dust if the weevil averages as high as one to two in 25 sweeps of the net in Austrian winter field peas.

More complete information on pea weevil control may be found in Circular of Information 200 and Station Circular 126.

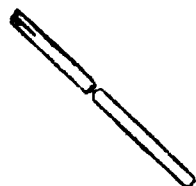
Making a Collecting Net

The purpose of this circular is to give instructions for constructing an inexpensive net which can be made at home. This net will prove adequate to

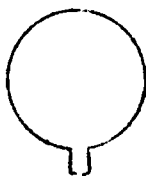
determine the infestation.

Equipment:

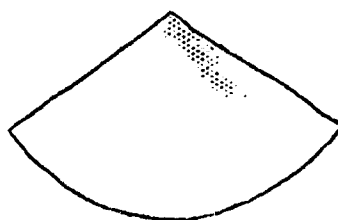
1. Small wooden handle about 3 feet long (broom handle).
2. Five feet of heavy, stiff wire (barrel-hoop or telephone wire).



Wood handle



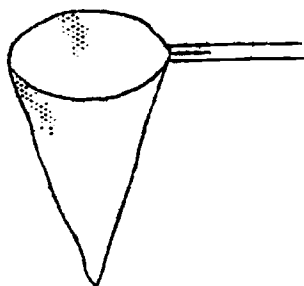
Wire



Cloth pattern

3. Piece of cloth 3 by 5 feet (mosquito netting or better grade material).
4. Pattern from which to cut cloth.
5. Saw, hammer, brace, small bit, narrow wood chisel.
6. Cord for wrapping wire onto handle.

Procedure:



Collecting net

1. Bend wire into shape.
2. Bore hole and cut grooves in broom handle.
3. Cut cloth and sew it together.
4. Slip bag on wire.
5. Attach wire to handle.
6. Reference: Collection and Preservation of Insects. United States Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin 1601.