Earlier greenhouse trials and small plot field tests suggested that seed treatments with carbofuran and methiocarb could be used to protect young spinach stands from attack by the subterranean springtail, Onychiurus pseudarmatus. Thus, as part of an IR-4 Western Regional project, seed treated with each of these insecticides was sown in portions of 7 commercial seed fields in 1982.

The results showed that seed treatments at 2 oz./a.i./100 lbs. of seed were ineffective. Seedling emergence was higher in treated blocks than in untreated blocks but the treatments failed to protect the plants, thereafter. With heavy springtail populations seed losses were as great in insecticide-treated blocks as in control blocks.