SEASONAL OCCURRENCE AND CONTROL OF PRIONUS CALIFORNICUS ON HOPS

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Light trap catches showed flight activity of the California prionus in southwest Idaho hop yards commenced on July 2 and continued through August 4. This was essentially the same as the activity period for 1980. About 55% of the beetles were females.

First year larvae were exposed in insecticide-treated soil to simulate soil drench applications to plants in yards. Mocap was more effective than Furadan at rates of 0.56 gr a.i./plant (2 sq. ft.). Temik at 14 lb. a.i./acre evenly distributed was ineffective but at 70 lb a.i./acre was about as effective as Mocap. The higher rate is equivalent to 14 lbs. a.i./acre being applied to 10 sq. ft. areas around plant bases. Tests in yards on one and two-year-old plants with the same insecticides failed because none of the plants became infested. Adults had been previously trapped at that location. This suggests that young plants are not subject to infestation.

Dissections of infested plants showed that larvae feed in the vicinity of the root cambium for about the first two years of development. Older larvae are often found in the center part of the crown.