

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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LONDON, S.W.1

PRESS NOTICE

28th May, 1942
M.A.F. 739

CONTROL OF BLACK APHIS OR BLACK FLY ON SUGAR BEET

In collaboration with the British Sugar Corporation, the British Sugar Beet Seed Producers' Association and the National Farmers' Union, arrangements have again been made whereby machines operated by Messrs. Pest Control Ltd., will be available this season to deal with Black Aphis infestations.

The methods of control are, (1) machine dusting of fields by nicotine, which, carried out on a large scale has resulted in a kill of about 95 per cent, and (2) gassing with vaporised nicotine by special high clearance tractors, which has achieved a mortality approaching 100 per cent. without appreciable damage to crops. Gassing is preferable where the foliage is much rolled or crinkled, or where a very rapid kill is required.

This service is intended primarily to safeguard crops of sugar beet seed and sugar beet from attack by this pest. Subject to this priority, infested crops of other seeds, peas, beans, strawberries, and Brussels sprouts, particularly in sugar beet growing areas, may receive treatment, if required, up to the limit of the available resources.

Successful control requires correct scientific advice and accurate timing of treatment. A grower who observes Black Aphis on his crops is therefore asked immediately to inform his contracting seed merchant in the case of sugar beet seed or his fieldman in the case of sugar beet, so that the necessary arrangements for treatment can be made without delay. A grower of other crops that have become infested should get into touch with the Advisory Entomologist for his area or the Executive Officer of the County War Agricultural Executive Committee.

Separate leaflets giving details of charges for treatment, procedure, etc. in respect of (1) sugar beet seed, (2) sugar beet and (3) other crops, may be obtained from Messrs. Pest Control, Ltd., Harston, Cambridge.