Ag and Food NEWSLETTER

Low Corrosion Liquid Phosphate

A NEW LIQUID ammonium phosphate is on the market in the far West. Its big advantage—a neutral pH; therefore, it introduces only minor corrosion problems and requires no expensive stainless steel equipment for application. R. L. Luckhardt, Agriform Co., Inc. (El Centro, Calif.), told us at the Pacific Northwest regional fertilizer conference (see page 598) that his company has been making it since January, that it is the only low-corrosive material of its type available. Process consists of combining ammonia and phosphoric acid to give materials analyzing from 7-24 to 9-28. By adding ammonium nitrate, urea, and/or potash, materials such as 17-7-0 or 10-10-5 can be obtained. Another new liquid formulation from Agriform is an ammonium phosphate sulfate analyzing 9-4-0.

Endrin Under Way

SHELL CHEMICAL is ready to roll with its new chlorinated insecticide, endrin, an isomer of dieldrin. Now in its third year of field tests, endrin got federal registration late last month for use on cotton insects; similar registration is expected for tobacco upon completion of flavor tests currently under way. Advantage of endrin pointed out by Shell is that endrin does its work alone, no combinations being required as in the case of other chlorinated insecticides. Product joints the two big-volume shell insecticides, aldrin and dieldrin, manufactured by Shell's Julius Hyman subsidiary. Volume production of endrin began in May, too late to capture much of this year's market; Shell, therefore, is shooting for 1954 as its big-volume year.

New Systemics

WHILE SHELL CHEMICAL is bringing endrin into commercial production, Shell Development has several phosphate systemics under test in agricultural experiment stations. Among them, diethyl-2-chlorovinyl phosphate and dimethyl-1-carbomethoxy-1-propen-2-yl phosphate. These two have about the same order of toxicity as Chemagro's Systox and Monsanto's OMPA. Important point, however, is the fact that the chloro compound has a higher volatility than similar materials. Should further field testing prove it to be suitable under all conditions, the higher volatility, which means it leaves the plant sooner, will open new fields not presently reached by systemics.

Ragweed Condemned

RAGWEED (ambrosia) has been condemned as noxious by a bill recently signed by the Governor of Illinois. In response to farm interests' protest against application to all areas in the entire state, the final version of the "hay fever bill" was watered down to cover only areas within corporate limits of cities, villages, and incorporated towns. As the weed is abundant in all counties, farmers would find themselves in a near-impossible situation. Also herbicides against it will kill clover and other beneficial broad-leafed plants. The amended form of the bill will make a smaller impact on herbicide market than might have been expected if the entire state had been included. But with some 40,000 incorporated areas in the state, herbicide consumption for ragweed control could attain sizable proportions. Fines against property owners who fail to clear their ragweed: $10 to $300.

Hydrazine by Matholin

A NEW COMPANY for hydrazine research, manufacture, and sales, Matholin, has been formed by Mathieson, builder of the first commercial-scale hydrazine plant, and Olin Industries, a pioneer in hydrazine research. Area of importance to agricultural chemicals industry: maleic hydrazide herbicide.

Brewery Strike Effects

ONE EFFECT OF THE brewery workers' strike in Milwaukee has been the postponement and possible cancellation of a local $10 million expansion by Miller Brewing Co. Miller's policy has always been to keep all of its facilities in Milwaukee. However, the strike, which started in May and is crippling all of the breweries in Milwaukee, may bring about a reversal of this possibility. Since Miller's announcement of this possibility on June 30, 10 to 15 communities have asked to be considered by Miller. Decision on the location of a planned $10 million packaging center will be made later. Construction on a combined brew house and grain elevator and other structures also totaling 10 million will proceed as planned.

Pesticide Residue Tolerance Coming

THE LONG AWAITED tolerances for chemical pesticides appear to be in the not-far-offing. Tentative tolerances for about 100 basic pesticides used on 32 fruits and 45 vegetables are involved. Starting in January 1950, the Food and Drug Administration held eight months of hearings on the subject and completed some 25,000 pages of testimony. The data have been sifted and correlated and the results sent first to the U. S. Public Health Service and later to the Department of Agriculture for review. After the proposed tolerances are issued, FDA will consider comments and objections before issuing final tolerances. FDA expects final tolerances for the 1954 growing season.