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Care for Your Canner

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A harpoon type trap set over flattened runway. With all types of mole traps it is necessary to tramp down runway.

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It is unnecessary and undesirable to tramp down the runways when using cyanide or car exhaust gas. All runways must be treated quickly and thoroughly. Open the runway; insert the nozzle of the dust gun or the end of the garden hose; introduce the gas rapidly; and close the runway. Repeat the process about every 10 feet until all parts of all runways are treated. Since the burrows are near the surface, the gas escapes rapidly and must be introduced at frequent intervals along the tunnel in order to kill the mole.

It is not unusual to see signs of mole activity during gassing of the runways, since the mole attempts to escape. The mole then can be scooped out of the ground with a spade or fork and killed.

**Poisons of Little Value**

Poisons are rarely effective in controlling moles. It is difficult to develop an acceptable substitute for the living grubs, worms and insects on which they feed. A large number of pellets introduced into the runway may have a repellent effect, causing the mole to abandon that portion.

**Lead Arsenate, Moth Balls**

Moth balls are offensive to moles. When introduced into the runways, they usually force the mole to abandon the treated burrows and extend his activities into previously uninfested portions of the lawn or garden.

Seed treatments are ineffective in controlling moles, since moles are not interested in seeds but in the insects attacking them. Seed treatments which prevent or hinder seed decay discourage insects and render the area less attractive to moles.

Lead arsenate has been successfully used to prevent mole infestation in lawns and gardens. This treatment has been used extensively in states east of Iowa but has not been thoroughly tested here. It apparently prevents the establishment of moles in the treated area but seems to have little or no effect on those already present.

The lead arsenate is applied at the rate of 1 pound per 100 square feet of lawn. It may be mixed with dry sand and applied with a lawn fertilizer cart or suspended in water and applied with a sprinkling can. If applied dry, the poison must be soaked into the ground by watering with a garden hose. Lead arsenate should not be applied to strawberry beds or to ground intended for strawberries, since it reduces the yield.

If a large area of lawn or garden is to be protected, reports from other states indicate that a band of lead arsenate 2 feet wide acts as an effective barrier. The poison is used at the same rate, i.e. 1 pound would cover a strip 2 feet wide and 50 feet long.

Calcium cyanide pumped into the runways at intervals of 10 feet, using a cyanide gas gun or garden dust gun, usually is effective. Car exhaust gas may be used in the same way. A garden hose may be fastened to the exhaust pipe of car to carry gas into the mole runway.

A single lead arsenate treatment may protect an area for 1 to 5 years, depending on the amount of rainfall, rapidity of leaching, type and character of the soil and on other factors.

**Care for Your Canner**

By LOUISE J. PEET

Conserving the 1944 food crop is going to require long hours of service from your pressure canner.

Because it probably put in many hours of overtime last year, the canner should be inspected and put in first-class repair now before the canning season starts. That will make the canning job easier. Then some care should be taken in cleaning the canner, especially the lid, during the canning season.

Probably the most important thing to remember about lid care after you’ve had the pressure gauge checked for accuracy — and that should be done now before the season starts — is that the lid should not be soaked in water when it is cleaned. Soaking may damage the mechanism so essential to proper operation of the canner.

Using a cloth dipped in warm soapy water is a good way to clean the lid. A cloth wrung out in clear water may be used to rinse it. Then the lid should be dried thoroughly.

The petcock should be unscrewed when the lid is being cleaned. And after the cleaning is done, you should be able to see light through the opening in the lid where the petcock fits. The petcock should always be opened before the lid is removed.

Each time the canner is cleaned, the safety valve, too, should be taken apart. The passageway into the canner can be cleaned out with a little brush. For this, baking soda may be used in the cleaning water. If the parts are corroded, fine steel wool may be used to clean them.

Another important fact to remember in cleaning the lid is that scratches on the rim will prevent the close contact necessary between the lid and the rim of the canner.

When putting on a lid which fastens by means of lugs, opposite lugs should be tightened together. A drop of sewing machine oil on each lug will make it easier to unscrew later.

Best service will be obtained if the canner is allowed to cool slowly after it has been used.