

IT IS MOST important in the control of termites to set up "roadblocks" or barriers between the wooden portions of the building and the ground. Subterranean termites die when shut off from their moisture supply in the soil. In brief, steps which lead to the establishment of these roadblocks are as follows:

Removal of stumps, wood and other cellulose debris, which might serve as food, from the soil near the building;

Removal of all form boards, grade stakes or other structural wood in contact with the earth;

Provision for thorough drainage of the soil beneath the building;

Provision of sufficient ventilation openings in the foundation to insure free circulation of air;

Provision of sufficient clearance beneath the building and under porches to give crawl space for inspections; and

Pointing up of all voids in foundation wall, piers and floors to provide tight foundations.

In controlling termites, chemicals may also be used. They should only be used, however, as a supplement to mechanical alterations or physical barriers, or as a substitute for them because of structural or economic difficulties. They are used as soil poisons about foundations or for treating masonry foundations to provide chemical barriers between the earth and the building.

Poisons for soil and masonry foundation treating which have been found effective in long time service tests conducted by the Bureau of Entomology & Plant Quarantine are: 10% sodium arsenite in water, trichlorobenzene 1 part in 3 parts fuel oil, 5% pentachlorophenol in fuel oil, coal-tar creosote 1 part in 2 parts fuel oil. Recently 5% DDT in fuel

oil has also been found to be effective.

Dosages of these chemicals for use in shallow and deep trenches are now being recommended by the Bureau of Entomology & Plant Quarantine as shown below.

Certain other soil poisons have shown promise after service tests of less than five years duration. These are benzene hexachloride, 0.8% gamma isomer in kerosene or fuel oil; 2% chlordane in fuel

oil will be determined after further results from these tests have been obtained.

Chlordane emulsion has the advantage of apparently being non-toxic to vegetation and may be used where valuable plants are nearby.

In general, oil solutions give best results. Emulsions are next best, and wettable powders are the least lasting and effective.

"ROADBLOCKS"

for

sub

CONTROL

Based on an address given by Dr. Thomas E. Snyder at the convention of the National Pest Control Association in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 1950. Dr. Snyder is Senior Entomologist, Division of Forest Insect Investigations, Bureau of Entomology & Plant Quarantine, Agricultural Research Administration, Beltsville, Maryland.

oil or as an emulsion; 10% monochloronaphthalene in kerosene; and 1/8 to 2% of the chlorinated hydrocarbons, aldrin and dieldrin, as solutions in oil and as emulsions in water. Combinations of benzene hexachloride and pentachlorophenol, and pentachlorophenol emulsions are also being tested. Dosages of these to be recommend-

Excellent research conducted by the Pest Control Operators of California has shown that fumigation with methyl bromide and HCN gas is effective in the control of drywood termites and powder-post beetles infesting the woodwork of detached buildings. Careful inspection of this work indicates that at present it is the only practicable method of controlling these insects where heavily infested timbers are hidden behind stucco or plaster. It might be worthwhile, however, to test heavy dosages of the fumigants ethylene dichloride - carbon tetrachloride, and ethylene oxide-carbon dioxide. They are less toxic to man than methyl bromide or HCN gas.

Dosages of Termite Chemicals

Recommended by the Bureau of Entomology & Plant Quarantine

Chemicals, per cent and solvent	Dosage per 10 linear feet	
	Shallow 15" trench	Deep 30" trench
Sodium arsenite 10% in water	2 gallons	4 gallons
Trichlorobenzene 1 part, fuel oil 3 parts	2 "	4 "
DDT 5% in fuel oil	4 "	8 "
Pentachlorophenol 5% in fuel oil	5 "	10 "
Coal-tar creosote 1 part, fuel oil 2 parts	6 "	12 "

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