BLANKET INDIGO

THE common name blanket indigo is proposed for *Indigofera pilosa* Vahl., a decumbent warm season annual legume naturalized about Anthony, Fla. The writer collected plants there November 14, 1946. At that time, only a few seed had matured.

Seed production is relatively abundant but late. The seed are small. Preliminary swelling tests indicate, most of the seed have a resting period of a few weeks., and that a small percent remain hard after a year in storage.—Paul Tabor, Conservation Service, Spartanburg, S. C.

THE EFFECTS OF 2, 4-D ON POTATO TUBERS WHEN SPRAYED AT THE BLOOM STAGE

TESTS to determine the effect of 2,4-D on potato plants were carried out in New Hampshire in 1948. Conflicting statements had been noted as a result of work done in other states in 1947 and previous years, some to the effect that 2,4-D had no effect on the plants or upon yield and others which maintained an opposite view.

In the New Hampshire trials, six varieties were sprayed on July 16, 65 days after planting, at three rates, \( \frac{1}{2} \) pint, 1 pint, and \( 1 \frac{1}{2} \) pint of 2,4-D acid per acre in the butyl ester formulation. The potatoes were in full bloom at that date.

Within 24 hours, all varieties exhibited a yellowing of the foliage, and there was some vine lodging. Sebagos and Chippewas appeared to be affected most, Green Mountains and Cobbles least, with Kukhous, Houmas intermediate. There was an increasing effect, for increased amounts of 2,4-D.

The blossoms fell much more quickly on the sprayed plots, but later it was noted that more seed set and those that were set became much larger on the sprayed plots. But the foliage had largely regained its deep green, though the vines never resumed their upright position.

Records at digging indicated approximately a 10% decrease in yield for each \( \frac{1}{2} \) pint of 2,4-D applied.

The potatoes grown in these trials were tested for quality, by determining the specific gravity of a 50-tuber sample (1) and averaging the results. All other treatments were identical, it is believed, variations in the quality ratings, as listed, were induced by having been treated with 2,4-D.

Quality rating, as here used, was first described by To determine the quality rating of a sample, the specific gravity of a sample is averaged. For example, if the average specific gravity of a sample is 1.095, the sample is said to have a quality rating of 95.

Identification of the species was made by Dr. Frederick J. Hermann of the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. Dr. Herman described it as native to Africa from Dakar to the Red Sea, and not previously reported in the United States.

Blanket indigo has been growing about Anthony, Fla., for a number of years. An elderly negro farmer, Ellis E. Hollis, told the writer he first observed this wild clover in his field near Anthony about 1907. He also reported using it regularly for grazing and hay since that time.

Blanket indigo has considerable promise as a soil-conserving ground cover. It is adapted to deep sands of moderate to low fertility. On these sites, it produces a dense blanket of growth. The lateness of seed production will probably limit its use to low latitudes unless earlier strains are found.

Blanket indigo has grown vigorously at Brooksville, Chalnaecrista spp., has been found on blanket indigo.

To date, plant pathologists have not been able to isolate pathogenic organisms from specimens sent to them.

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