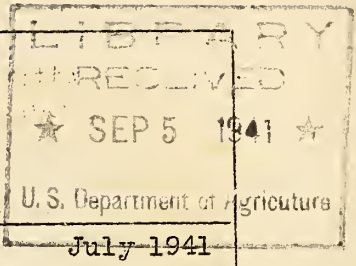


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DIRECTIONS FOR POISONING THIRTEEN-STRIPED GROUND SQUIRRELS^{1/}

Prepared in the Division of Predator and Rodent Control

The thirteen-striped ground squirrels, sometimes known as striped gophers, often become troublesome pests by digging up corn and other seeds from newly planted fields. One of the most effective means of control is the use of poisoned grain prepared in accordance with the following formula:

- Dry gloss starch 1 heaping tablespoonful
- Strychnine (alkaloid) powdered 1 ounce
- Baking soda. 1 ounce
- Corn sirup 1/4 pint
- Glycerine. 1 tablespoonful
- Clean oats 16 quarts

Dissolve the dry gloss starch in a little cold water and add 3/4 pint of hot water. Boil, stirring constantly, until a thin clear paste is formed. Mix together the powdered strychnine (alkaloid) and baking soda, sift into the hot starch paste, and stir to a smooth creamy mass. Add the corn sirup and glycerine, and stir thoroughly. Pour this mixture over the oats and mix so that each grain is evenly coated. It is important that only the best grade of clean oats free of weed seeds be used, as chaff absorbs and wastes much valuable strychnine, and poisoned weed seeds not only imperil useful bird life but also propagate undesirable weeds.

Strychnine in any form other than powdered strychnine (alkaloid) is not effective in the above formula.

A bait almost as effective may be prepared by using strychnine sulfate, as follows: Dissolve 1 ounce of strychnine sulfate in 1-1/2 pints of boiling water. After the strychnine has dissolved, make the starch paste as directed above, using this hot, poisoned water for the purpose. Then stir in 1 ounce of baking soda, add sirup and glycerine, and proceed as in the above directions.

^{1/} This leaflet supersedes Leaflet Bi-1162, issued in August 1931, by the Bureau of Biological Survey, under the Department of Agriculture.

The baits should be scattered in teaspoonful quantities at the entrance to the burrows used by the ground squirrels. The grain should not be placed in piles, but should be scattered lightly about the entrance to the burrow, preferably on hard clean ground. It should not be placed on loose or dirty ground or in the holes. When properly distributed there is little danger of poisoning livestock. The bait should not be exposed, however, where hogs or poultry are likely to pick it up.

Ground squirrels may also be killed with calcium cyanide. This material generates a deadly poisonous gas and is usually effective in control work. A tablespoonful should be inserted in the burrow, and the entrance then covered with dirt. Calcium cyanide is a highly dangerous substance and should be used with extreme caution.

Another successful method of controlling ground squirrels is the use of the exhaust of an automobile. One end of a hose may be attached to the exhaust pipe and the other end inserted in the burrow. Carbon monoxide gas generated by the motor soon penetrates the burrow and kills the squirrels quickly. This method is practicable where only a few ground squirrels are causing the trouble.

CAUTION

All utensils used in the preparation of poisons and all poison containers should be kept plainly labeled and out of reach of children, irresponsible persons, and livestock.