Extravagant claims have been made in recent popular articles relative to the effectiveness of certain hormones or hormone-like substances in destroying perennial weeds. 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D or DCP) and 2,4,5-Trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (TCP) are the organic acids receiving most attention.

Although striking results apparently have been obtained in the use of these organic acids in trials largely made in the East, such tests are extremely limited in their extent and scope and actually furnish very little reliable information as to the practical value of these new herbicides in the field. Practically nothing is known as to their value or use under the varied, and especially the arid conditions common to Colorado.

That they are very promising is without question but more than that we cannot say at this time. Regardless of the claims made, information is limited or lacking on the following:

1. Degree and extent of effectiveness
2. Weeds on which effective
3. Most effective concentration
4. Most effective rate of application
5. Most effective method of application
6. Most effective date of application
7. Effect of time of day of application
8. Possible effect on soil
9. Possible effect on animals

The Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, in cooperation with the Federal workers who are largely responsible for developing these hormone-like materials as herbicides, is planning to make exhaustive tests with these substances, of which there are now eight different preparations and more being developed. Tests will be made in as many representative sections of the state as possible and results will be made known as soon as they provide definite information. This work as well as other phases of investigations in weed control will be greatly augmented by the funds recently provided for the purpose by the State Legislature.

Most of the hormone preparations are available for experimental purposes only. However, commercial forms are on the market and others may appear. In view of the remarkable claims made for them it is to be expected that many persons will be inclined to invest heavily and perhaps not too wisely in an effort to kill their weeds. Others will be desirous of doing a little experimenting on their own. There certainly is no harm in the latter, but the extensive use of these materials at this stage of their development may result in their unwarranted condemnation due to failures and disappointments resulting from improper applications.

We strongly recommend that present or contemplated extensive weed control efforts be based on proven and recommended practices involving "delayed" cultivation (periodic shoot cutting) for large areas and the use of sodium chloride on limited or inaccessible infestations.

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