

Director's Digest



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AREA CODE 312-827-0139

JUNE, 1988

No.164

WHY IS YELLOW GREASE SOIL SPRAY OF IMPORTANCE FOR US TODAY?

The loss of our rich top soil is an every day occurrence. This loss may occur through various means. The most common methods of soil loss are: 1) water erosion, 2) wind erosion and 3) a combination of both of these methods. Water erosion occurs when excess water from rain or flooding covers the soil and it cannot be absorbed rapidly enough to prevent runoff. This runoff causes precious top soil and in some cases even subsoil to be eroded at very rapid rates. This type of erosion occurs most frequently due to improper soil management by agricultural personnel. Improper soil management may include many areas such as planting bottom land that should be left in vegetative cover, plowing and cropping land that is too steep for good row crop farming and other such cropping practices. Wind erosion occurs when strong winds come in contact with soil that does not have a vegetative cover or prior to the emergence of crops which have been planted. Wind erosion is most severe in the high plains of the United States and similar geographic regions of the world. However, wind erosion may well occur throughout all of the crop producing areas of this or any other country. Thus, it is obvious that either wind or water erosion can cause extreme economic loss for the agricultural sector of the world.

Soil spray made from yellow grease has been found to provide an excellent cover for soil against both water and wind erosion. This material sprayed in a four inch band over the row results in water running off to the side of a row rather than down the row and washing out the recently planted seed. It also causes the conservation of the moisture between the rows due to the running off of the water between the rows and thus causes greater crop production on less moisture. Thirdly, the soil spray on the row causes the soil under the spray to stay warmer, which helps speed up germination of the seed. Also, soils sprayed with the yellow grease do not form a hard crust following a rain. The prevention of soil crust formation aids in the new seedlings emerging from the soil and normally results in a higher germination and population stand of the planted crop. The soil spray also slows top soil movement by wind prior to the emergence of the planted crop by breaking the force of the wind across the field.

Thus, wind erosion, while not being eliminated has been reduced by utilization of the soil spray. The force of the wind and soil particles carried by the wind have also been reduced by spraying the rows with the yellow grease spray. This reduction in the wind and soil particle force has resulted in less seedling plant loss.

Agronomists and soil scientists have for years advocated some means of controlling wind and water erosion for the agricultural sector of the world. However, it would seem that when such technology is available, these scientists do not or will not advocate this utilization by the agricultural community. When soil spray will provide a simple and economical means of preventing soil loss (about \$5.00 per acre), it would seem that everyone in the scientific and production community should be advocating the use of such products. When we realize that it takes centuries to replace even an inch of our precious top soil, it would seem that any means available, regardless of cost, should be utilized to aid in prevention of soil erosion.

Could it be that soil scientists, government agricultural personnel and large agricultural production operators are not desirous of controlling wind and water erosion of the world? It does not seem possible that these people could be more interested in monetary returns than they are in preserving the top soils of the world. However, until they advocate the utilization of strong soil conservation practices which include the utilization of measures such as the use of products like yellow grease soil spray, one can only wonder about their motives. The use of soil conservation practices and development of new programs will result in continued crop production for centuries to come - but ignoring these practices may well result in world hunger in just a few short years.

We well know that the continued loss of the precious top soil in the United States and other arid parts of this world will soon result in more and more Ethiopias. Why not utilize the knowledge and materials available to aid in the prevention of soil erosion throughout the world. Yellow grease soil spray may not be the the "savior" from water and wind soil erosion but it is certainly another tool which should be utilized in our agricultural crop production program to overcome this serious problem.