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Trip Report - Davis-Monthan AFB AZ

Chief, Consultant Services Div
Commander, USAF OEHL
IN TURN

1. Place: Operations and Maintenance Division, 355th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), Davis-Monthan AFB AZ.
2. Inclusive Dates of Travel: 25-27 Oct 77
3. Person Making Trip: Capt Alvin L. Young
4. Primary Mode of Transportation: Commercial Air
5. Purpose of Trip: To supervise field applications of Herbicide Blue in support of Project PACER HO.
6. Persons Contacted:
 - a. Lt Col Richard C. Zeeck, DEM
 - b. Mr Kenneth Miners, DEM
 - c. Mr David Darling, DEMP
 - d. Mr Oscar Rodriguez, DEMP
7. Comments and Observations:

a. On 9 Sep 77, thirteen 55-gallon drums of dilute Herbicide Blue were shipped (in new double-lined drums) from Johnston Island to 355th CES, Davis-Monthan AFB AZ. The thirteen drums represented the remainder of all non-Orange Herbicide stock on the Island. Because Blue was formulated to contain 19,000 ppm arsenic (as the organic pentavalent form cacodylic acid, see Atch 1) it was not incinerated with Orange Herbicide stocks.

b. The 355th CES has used Herbicide Blue as a contact herbicide for vegetation control since 1973. The personnel responsible for its application (Mr David Darling and Mr Oscar Rodriguez, DEMP) had previously completed the pesticide applicators course at Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls TX. The herbicide has previously been used to control Russian Thistle, Salsola kali, and Russian Knapweed, Centaurea repens, in the aircraft storage area.

c. On 26 Oct 77, the dilute herbicide was applied as a water soluble spray to six acres of Russian Thistle-infested storage area. The amount of Blue per 500-gallon load was based on the arsenic concentration of the final spray composition. This was determined by using Atch 2 (Memo For The Record - Characterization of the Material in the 13 Drums of Herbicide Blue, 1 Sep 77, by C.E. Thalken), and calculating the theoretical arsenic concentration for a standard (recommended) rate of herbicide Blue (Table 1, Atch 3). As noted in Table 1, all thirteen drums, plus rinseate, were disposed of in two 500-gallon loads. The herbicide was sprayed using a 16 nozzle, 12-foot spray boom. The rig was calibrated to deliver 15 pounds cacodylic acid per acre with six acres used for the total operation. Although, some problems were encountered with the formation of a water insoluble precipitate (probably a sodium salt of 2,4-D or picloram from drums containing a dilute concentration of Herbicide White), this was handled by increasing spray pressure and nozzle orifice.

d. All thirteen drums were triple-rinsed and the rinseate included as diluent in the 500-gallon loads. The drums were destroyed by puncturing tops, bottoms, and sides flattening with a front loader, and burying in the approved landfill used by Davis-Monthan AFB AZ (see Atch 4). An out-briefing on the operation was given to Lt Col Zeeck and Mr Miners, Commander and Deputy of the Operations and Maintenance Division. Col Zeeck requested data on other herbicides that have potential use for weed control at Davis-Monthan. I indicated to him that I would prepare and send a recommendation on methods of vegetation control in the aircraft storage area.

ALVIN L. YOUNG, Capt, USAF, PhD.
Pesticide Consultant

- 4 Atch
1. Label
2. Memo for the Record
3. Table 1
4. Container Disposal