

CRICKET PLAGUE LATEST MENACE TO U%S% WHEAT

The rich Oregon wheatfields may not reap their harvest unless the farmers can defeat the plague of large crickets threatening to devour ^{destroy} the crop. On a front of twelve miles the all-devouring insect army advances into the wheat belt.

Seagulls, natural foe of the insects, are not present in their usual numbers. At first it seemed as though man were powerless to beat back the insect tide. ~~Almost like~~
~~some supernatural horror the loathsome creatures swarmed~~
~~over the land.~~

Chlordane, newly-discovered insecticide, was hastily supplied to farmers by the State Agriculture Department. Over an area of five-hundred-square-miles wheat-growers spread it with all possible speed. For those without machinery dust-bombs were prepared and fired as mortars. ~~It was a very mixed of~~
~~the insecticide.~~

Nature might have spared us this attack on the much-needed ~~wheat~~
wheat supply.

Kees
Abbott
#82
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1. TITLE: FARMERS FIGHT CRICKET INVASION!
 2. Oregon's rich wheat fields threatened by a new invasion of crop-destroying crickets. Newspapers headline the attack. Near Hermiston, Oregon, the plague is at its height as the voracious insects move into a one thousand-acre field of grain. The crickets are advancing on a 12-mile front, like some terrible army in miniature. Relief begins to arrive from the skies as hungry seagulls fly in for counter-attack. But the seagulls, their natural enemy, fail to arrive in sufficient numbers, and any weapon that happens to be at hand goes into the battle.
 16. Elsewhere, defense forces prepare to use chlordane, a new poison. The insect marauders have begun to spread in every direction over a 500-square mile area.
 21. Now, attack by dust bombs -- a peacetime mortar for combatting insects.
 26. The casualty lists of the enemy begin to mount as Oregon declares all out war on the cricket invaders.