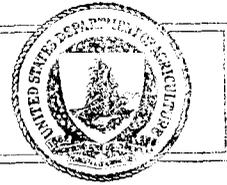




U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate.

June 18, 1930. 5133

PORCUPINES DO SERIOUS DAMAGE  
TO TREES AND CROPS OF THE WEST

Increase in numbers of porcupines which cause serious damage to crops and trees in the West has necessitated effective means of controlling them, says the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. As porcupines will eat practically all kinds of vegetation, their greater abundance has resulted in widespread damage to western agriculture. This is particularly noticed in forests, where their destructiveness to trees in many places is second only to that of fire. Porcupine damage to cultivated crops occurs chiefly in the spring and summer, when they destroy young fruit trees, and defoliate the more mature ones, eat and wallow down alfalfa, and feed upon truck crops. From an economic standpoint, however, by far the most serious damage they do is to injure or kill young forest trees.

Methods of controlling porcupines, based upon their seasonal movements and feeding habits, are described in a Leaflet, 60-L, "Porcupine Control in the Western States," recently issued by the Department of Agriculture. Control by hunting and shooting, or by poisoning with a salt-strychnine mixture, is recommended. The leaflet also gives full directions for preparing the baits and placing them in trees. Forest owners and others interested may obtain copies of the leaflet free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.