

SESSION 6A

DISCUSSION

In reply to a question concerning the effects of treating hoary cress in uncropped land, Mr. Moore said that experiments in old cultivations containing Wimmera ryegrass and burr medic had given similar results to those in cropped land.

Questioned about crop rotations in the Wimmera, Mr. Moore said that the normal rotation was wheat-oats-fallow - a system which favoured perennial weeds such as hoary cress. He suggested that a pasture phase should be included in the rotation and that the weed be sprayed each time the land was cropped. There was some evidence to suggest that rates of application might have to be reduced when spraying oats, since this crop appeared to be more susceptible to MCPA than wheat. Fortunately there was other evidence that two light applications (4 oz. per acre) might be as effective as two heavier applications. Spraying in the pasture phase would be effective insofar as the control of hoary cress was concerned, but in the Wimmera there had been a notable decrease in burr medic the year following spraying with MCPA. In South Australia, it was reported, there had been increases in burr medic the year after spraying with 2,4-D or MCPA.

The significance of the period between applications of MCPA to hoary cress was raised by delegates. Mr. Moore replied that in the Wimmera on uncultivated land the population of hoary cress fluctuated; high spring densities alternated with low spring densities. Under such conditions it seemed advisable to apply sprays at intervals of two years, i.e. when the spring populations were high. On land cultivated for crops high spring densities occurred every year.