

MECHANICAL CONTROL OF VOLUNTEER POTATOES
AS A MEANS OF CONTROLLING LEAF ROLL

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In a large percentage of seasons, the volunteer problem is a major contributor to the spread of leaf roll. The threat is the greatest when following a serious leaf roll year, such as 1965, a mild winter, such as the present one, brings a volunteer crop with a very high percentage of chronic plants. Research -- and experience has shown us what this means.

Attempting to survey the costs of removing the volunteers by hand pulling from the Pasco area through the Quincy area resulted in a wide range of costs: from \$60.00 to \$2.00 per acre! However, putting all these answers into perspective, there is a startling agreement in cost and reasoning.

Since no chemical control for weeds in wheat and peas will kill potato plants, and hand weeding is out, these crops are impossible to remove volunteers from.

In corn, beets, spuds and beans due to routine cultivation removing most of the volunteers between the rows, the hand pulling is mostly in the row and is done when hand weeding at a reported average cost of from \$5.00 to \$18.00 per acre. It is questionable whether this practice removes the volunteers before they have contributed to the spread of leaf roll in some cases.

One grower in Othello reported that he could hand pull the potatoes only from sugar beets for \$2.00 to \$3.00 per acre once over, but that more plants may appear later. A Quincy grower felt it could cost as high as \$50.00 to \$60.00 per acre to effectively remove volunteers from potatoes.