

Soil Technologies Corp.
Research and Development Department



Research Report

Title: Effectiveness of Garlic Gard as a Gopher Repellent

Location: Alcalde, New Mexico

Principal Investigator: Charles Martin
The Sustainable Agriculture Science Center

Crop: Apple

Date: 1997

Abstract:

The purpose of this trial was to observe the effects of Garlic Gard¹ on gopher activity in a one-acre apple orchard. To measure gopher activity, gopher holes and mounds were counted before and after the application of Garlic Gard to the soil of the orchard. A significant reduction in gopher activity was observed after the application of Garlic Gard. Before the treatment 27 mounds were counted and three weeks after treatment only three mounds were counted. Another observation was that the apple trees did not exhibit signs of peach twig borer (*Anarsia lineatella*) or codling moth (*Cydia pomonella*). As a result, no further pesticides needed to be applied to the orchard for that growing season.

Methods:

Gopher holes and mounds were counted in a one-acre apple orchard before Garlic Gard was applied to the soil, three weeks after treatment, and in October.

Results:

Before the application of Garlic Gard, 27 gopher mounds were counted. Three weeks after the treatment was applied three mounds were counted and in October seven mounds were counted. Moreover, the apple trees did not exhibit symptoms of codling moth or peach twig borer, so no further pesticides needed to be applied to the orchard.

¹Garlic Gard is a natural insect and animal repellent manufactured by Soil Technologies Corp. in Fairfield, IA, USA

Conclusions:

Results from this test indicate Garlic Gard as an effective repellent for gophers. Before the application of Garlic Gard, 27 gopher mounds were counted. Three weeks after the treatment was applied three mounds were counted and in October seven mounds were counted. In addition to the reduction in gopher activity, the apple trees did not exhibit symptoms of codling moth or peach twig borer, so no further pesticides needed to be applied to the orchard. This observation suggests that Garlic Gard repels gophers, which may have an overall positive affect on crop health.