

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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FOR RELEASE AM'S TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1968

TOPEKA, Kans., Aug. 13 -- Congressman Bob Dole late Monday urged the Department of Agriculture to step up its efforts to find a chemical spray to eradicate the state's greenbug infestation.

The greenbug, an aphid which in the past has plagued wheat farmers, has according to entomologists, mutated and is now attacking milo, broomcorn and Johnson grass in an 11-state area including Kansas.

Noting there is a nationwide shortage of the chemical spray normally used to control the insects, the Congressman said, "Monday the USDA began testing substitute chemicals in the center of the aphid-infected area near Guyman, Okla. on 40-acre test plots."

"This severe infestation of greenbugs is reaching a critical point," Dole said. "If a new chemical is not found and applied quickly, the effect may be a severe blow to the entire state's economy."

Dole said he has assured the USDA in Washington and the Cooperative Extension Service in Manhattan that he will cooperate in any way to help eradicate the bugs.