

vances. This increase in size is due not to migration of nematodes from plant to plant but rather to the build-up in population around each individual plant. The initial density of population of nematodes in these infested areas depends upon the type of cover crop growing there prior to preparation of land for strawberries.

If crab-grass is the cover, the population of sting nematodes will be quite dense. Crabgrass roots favor the rapid multiplication of the nematode and are capable of supporting large populations, without having the grass show any signs of the nematodes being present. Sesbania also is favorable for the nematode but becomes stunted if too many are present on the roots. Velvet bean and hairy indigo are not good host plants for the nematode and should be used as cover crops for strawberry land.

In the fruiting fields satisfactory control of the nematode can be obtained by in-the-row injection with D-D or ethylene dibromide at the rate of 1 pint to 150 lineal feet. This must be done at least 2 weeks before plants are set, as these materials are toxic to plants. For the nursery fields nematode control is best accomplished with 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane<sup>4</sup>. Plants are set out and soil is treated after plants are well established. The entire bed is drenched with Nemagon at the rate of 2 gallons technical per acre.

#### ROOT-KNOT NEMATODE

The type of root injury caused by this nematode occurs on roots of many of the vegetable crops in the South grown during warm weather. On strawberries the disease is less severe. Fruiting plants are not much affected, mainly because during the fruiting season temperatures are comparatively low and the root-knot nematode somewhat dormant. The disease can become severe and cause considerable root injury and even death of plants during prolonged periods of drought and high temperature, especially if the plants are being grown on light, sandy soil.

The microscopic eelworm or nematode, *Meloidogyne* sp., which causes root-knot is quite common in the soils of Southern states. It enters strawberry roots and causes galls  $1/16$  to  $1/8$  inch in diameter, much smaller than those formed on roots of vegetable crops (Fig. 7). These galls interfere with normal root function, such as absorption of nutrient solutions from the soil. Plants thus attacked become unthrifty and may eventually die.

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<sup>4</sup> Nemagon.