PLANT GROWTH STIMULATED

Potent New Garden Chemical Tested By U.S. Government

An amazing new chemical discovery that promises new unparalleled advances in home gardening is now available to home gardeners. The chemical, giberellin, or giberellic acid, has the remarkable property of stimulating plant growth greater than any means heretofore known.

The chemical, reportedly used by the Japanese for more than a century, has undergone exhaustive testing by government experts at Beltsville, Maryland, where reports show that treated plants mature three times faster than untreated plants, attain full maturity (bearing age) much earlier and, in some cases, produce flowers or fruit more lavishly.

The potency of the chemical can be readily understood when one realizes that a solution for treating plants approximating one part of the chemical to one million parts of water will make some plants grow three times taller than untreated ones in just a few weeks.

Giberellic acid comes, originally, from a fungus, Giberella fujikuroi, which causes a disease of rice plants in the Orient. Commercially, it is made by growing the fungus on special foods in vats much in the manner that penicillin, the antibiotic, is made artificially.

The most convenient and satisfactory method of applying the stimulant to plants is by spraying it on the leaves where it is readily absorbed and consumed by the plant.

Tests have shown that the spray, when applied to stocks, have caused flowering in from two to five weeks, with longer flower spikes and more flowers.

Tests have not yet been made on all plants, but noticeable growth improvement has been shown in geraniums, fuchsias, African violets, campanulas, begonias and salvia.

Users are cautioned that the chemical is not a fertilizer substitute but is only a growth stimulant and merely supplements normal feeding requirements.

The new chemical is now being offered through garden supply stores under various trade names and users are cautioned to follow the manufacturer's directions implicitly when using, else the results may not be all that is desired.

Men Gardeners To Hear State Flora Experts

Besides being treated to the scenic beauty of Oregon and the festivities of the world famous Portland Rose Festival this June, persons attending the national convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, to be held in Portland June 11-13, will hear from some of Oregon's best known horticulturists.

SIMON TO SPEAK

The first day of the convention, Tuesday, June 11, has been designated as Pacific Northwest regional day with the luncheon speaker to be Lee F. Simon, Portland photographer and authority on birds, trees, wildflowers, mycology and geology. Simon's topic will be "Geological Highlights of the Columbia Gorge," a fitting subject for the tour of the Columbia Gorge to follow the luncheon.

A dinner will be held at Multnomah Falls with J. Earl Cook, Salem, president of the Pacific Northwest region, Men's Garden Clubs, presiding. Frank Reinelt, well known breeder of primroses, tuberous begonias and delphinium, from California, will be the dinner speaker.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM

Wednesday morning, June 12, the program includes "You Won't Recognize That Old Flag Today" by Rholin Cooley, Silverton grower and "What's New in Daffodils" by Grant Mitsch, renowned grower and hybridizer of Canby.

Warren H. Dowling, Portland, will speak on "Gladiolus for the Home Garden" and Jan de Graaf, Gresham hybridizer, on "Lilies For the Home Garden."

The Thursday, June 13 session will include talks by Claude I. Seranous, Portland, on "What to Look for in the Rhododendron Test Garden" and F. H. "Jock" Brydon, Salem, "The Exbury Rhododendrons and Azaleas."

BANQUET THURSDAY

The concluding feature of the convention will be the Thursday evening banquet when Dr. John H. Hanley, Seattle, will speak on "Is Gardening for Everyone?"

In addition to these outstanding speakers, members are looking forward to the selection of the 1957 Johnny Appleseed Award recognizing some man's outstanding work in horticulture for the public good.

Previous Oregon recipients of the "Appleseed" award, the highest honor the organization can bestow, were John Bacher, Portland, 1946, Fred Edmunds, Portland, 1947, and Dr. E. J. Kraus, Corvallis, 1950.

New national officers of the organization will be announced and introduced at the closing banquet. Other awards granted by the organization will be presented at the same time.

Efficiency Stressed in Modern Home

The home of the Gale H. Merwins, 1290 Valley View Ave., was planned to fit the family needs and for efficiency. Top left shows the dining area at the northeast corner of the house, looking into it from the living room. Top right picture shows the Merwins' two sons' room. The kitchen is in the lower picture showing ventilator over built-in oven at right and plate built-in mixer on counter at left front. (Capital Journal photos)

HOME OF THE WEEK

Valley View Home Fits Family Need

By MARGARET MAGEE
Capital Journal Writer

Designed to fit the needs of a family with two growing sons, is the home of the Gale H. Merwins, 1290 Valley View Ave.

The Merwins have occupied their new home only a little over a month but have found it suits the family better all of the time, although there is still work to be done.

BASEMENT AREA

One project is the basement area, which at back is on ground level. The recreation room will be here—the fireplace is already built—and an extra bedroom and half-bath. Just outside to the north of the room will be the play area for their two sons, Corkey, 13, and John, 10. At the south end and east will be a patio, a few steps down from the living room.

Cedar, painted white, has been used on the exterior and part of the front side of the house is finished in Roman brick.

Tile is used on the entrance hall floor to the keeping room, there is linoleum in a tile design, making it a practical house for youngsters. The fireplace in this room and the fireplace in the living room form the partition between these two rooms.

At one side of the keeping room fireplace a bookcase has been built. Walls of the room are panelled around the bottom in knotty spruce and above is a gay-figured paper. Drapes are in turquoise, which with pink, is used throughout the house.

SNACK BAR

Between the kitchen and the keeping room is a snack bar. The kitchen is finished in birch with fixtures in brown tones. Tile on the drainboard is tan with a light brown border. Built-in features abound in the kitchen. Merwin has designed a vent for the built-in oven so it could be used for broiling.

Both the living room and dining room, which is separated from the kitchen by a bar, are on the east side of the house. They have a large expanse of picture windows to take advantage of the view from the hill where the house is built.

Drapes are white, a strong contrast to the rose wall-to-wall carpeting used in the two rooms and the turquoise walls. The open corner fireplace in the living room has a raised hearth with seats along the bricked wall. Ribbon grain mahogany is used in panelling the wall between the living room and kitchen.

DEN ADDED

What originally was to have been a guest bedroom, is now used for a den. Colors here are brown and tan and the drapes a dark green.

In both the master bedroom and the bedroom of the Merwins' two sons' dressers and drawer space have been built into the walls. Even the toys are behind doors.

The Merwins have a ranch near Prineville, which particularly appeals to their sons, so the ranch theme has been used in their room. Spruce and mahogany is used in the wardrobes, panelling and built-ins. Both turquoise and rose are used in the master bedroom.

There are two baths on the main floor placed side-by-side. One is for the master bedroom and predominantly grey with pink accents. The other, used by the boys has an extra large shower and here pink predominates and grey is the accent.

INSTALLMENT THEFTS

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (UP) — Knox County deputies said today the thieves who stole a boat from the dock at the Johnson Bible College came back the following night and stole the motor.

Oregon State Experts Caution Homeowners on Termite Crisis

Play it cool when dealing with termites. House damage doesn't come overnight, and a few days spent investigating the best course to follow can pay off, according to Oregon State college entomologists.

Alarm over "suspected" termites makes many homeowners easy prey to high-pressure sales talks and extensive control jobs before they get the facts, say Paul Ritcher, OSC entomology department head, and R. W. Every, entomology specialist.

PROBLEM REVIEWED

Reports of such "pressure practices" in several areas of Oregon have prompted a review of the termite problem by the OSC department in cooperation with Robert Furniss, Portland, U.S. forest service entomologist, and Robert Graham of the Oregon Forest Products laboratory, Corvallis.

Recommendations by the team have been made available to county extension agents throughout Oregon as an aid to homeowners. The first step for the homeowner is positive identification of the insect and the damage it is doing.

Two kinds of termites are commonly found in Oregon—the dampwood termite, common in Western Oregon, and the subterranean termite that is found throughout the state. Defense against the dampwood termite is primarily a problem of controlling moisture and wood decay. Subterranean termite control can be difficult, and frequently requires special skills and equipment of a commercial pest control operator.

The adult dampwood termite is light brown with darker wings nearly an inch long. Immature forms are whitish in color. This termite gains a foothold where structural timbers are in direct contact with the soil. It nests in the wood.

NESTS IN SOIL

The subterranean termite nests in the soil and is smaller than the dampwood termite. Adult workers are grayish-white and about one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch long. Winged forms are black with wings about one-fourth of an inch long.

Homeowners can send "suspected" termites to the county extension agent for identification. The county agent can also outline suggested control methods. Some situations can be corrected by the homeowner at little cost, the entomologists say, while others may require extensive house repair.

The following steps are recommended to control subterranean termites: poison the soil; replace damaged wood; break contact between wood and soil; and improve ventilation. For dampwood termite control, replace damaged wood and solve the moisture problem.

Control practices that are considered of little value are fumigation, except under seals, spraying of exposed timbers, and pressure injection of toxic liquids into damaged timbers.

Garden Work Aided By Latest Devices

Mechanical Tools Eliminate Much of Home Ground Labor

By MARK M. TAYLOR
Capital Journal Garden Editor

The advances in mechanical devices to aid the home gardener have eliminated much of the labor formerly involved in maintaining the home grounds. Manufacturers of power equipment have developed machinery compact, efficient and inexpensive so that the average home owner can enjoy the advantages of more efficient home grounds maintenance without the expenditure of great physical effort or a great capital outlay.

Most noteworthy, and popular with the home gardener is the power mower. There are many of these on the market, ranging in price from $50 for small rotary mowers, to $300 for large riding mowers.

RANGE OF TYPES

Types range from rotary mowers of various sizes that cut all grass and weeds at uniform height, some even chopping up the cut grass to a fine mulch that can be left on the lawn, to the customary reel-type mower with power added. Sickle bar mowers can be used to cut tall grass and even small brush, laying it evenly as though cut with a hand sickle or scythe.

Tilling, plowing and cultivating by hand is nearly a thing of the past with many small, efficient garden tractors available at less than $150. Attachments for most of these small garden tractors are available that provide power spraying, where a few trees are on the place and need be cared for. Dozer blades are standard equipment with the larger garden tractors, enabling the owner to move dirt and debris or level a given area.

Some tractors come with power take-off facilities that permit the machine to serve as the power house for operating saws, compressors for spraying, spray painting.

ELECTRIC HEDGE TRIMMER

For the home owner who has problems maintaining a hedge in trim, neat appearance, the several fine electric hedge trimmers will prove a great addition to gardening tools. Most of these trim neatly and cleanly with a minimum of effort which adds greatly to the appearance of the home grounds yet require a minimum of effort.

Similarly there are some excellent lawn trimmers or edgers, that will trim lawn grass right up to trees, fences, walls and rocks where the regular mower will not reach. Tilted the trimmer becomes an effective edger, cutting a clean, neat groove between the walkway and lawn turf with efficient decisive action.

Sprayers for the small home grounds are not only a desired piece of equipment but nearly a necessity where pests and disease may raise havoc with valued garden plants.

Two types of sprayers are outstandingly popular with the small home owner.

An attachment for the garden hose utilizes water pressure to mix the spray correctly, and at the same time, delivers an effective coverage of spray for average sized plants. Such hose attachments are quite inexpensive and, yet, most efficient in operation.

The other most popular home garden sprayer is the compressed air sprayer. A tank holds up to four gallons of mixed spray.

Dusting is a favorite method of pest or disease control of many gardeners and dusting devices, operated by the turning of a crank are available in small garden size now.

An innovation in spraying, is the use of pressurized containers, or "bombs".

These come with your favorite spray material in metal cans of pint to quart size already pressurized so that one has only to remove the cap, press the release button and a fine, strong, misty spray reaches every part of the plant to which it is directed.

Weed Control Accomplished By Chemicals

Now is the time to start control of weeds in lawns.

Dandelions, broadleaf and buckhorn plantain, bull thistle and daisies can easily be killed by using 2,4-D, and chickweed, white clover and many other difficult to kill weeds can be controlled with 2,4,5-T or a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. Both, however, should be used with caution, for they are capable of killing many desirable broadleaf plants.

A few safety rules listed by County Agent Wilbur L. Bluhm in using the sprays are: use the amine form of 2,4-D; do not spray on windy days; use at least three to four gallons of water per 1,000 square feet for good coverage; use low pressure to get a coarse spray rather than a finely atomized one; if possible use a protective cover over the spray boom, or hold a solid barrier between spray and flowers or shrubs when spraying; and do not spray young, tender, newly seeded lawns.

Weedy grasses, such as velvet grass and annual bluegrass, cannot be controlled with either 2,4-D or 2,4,5-T. A vigorous turf is very important in the control of these weeds, as well as all others. Proper mowing and fertilization encourage vigorous growth of the desirable lawn grasses.

Your Garden Notebook

DO YOU KNOW?

Ceanothus velutinus, called mountain lilac or sticky laurel is a common native shrub of Douglas County?

Kolam is an Indian name for a root of a plant used for food which, probably is a species of Araha?

Cogswellia cous is an edible root used for making bread, found in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington?

Western Chinquapin, Castanea chrysophylla, or golden leaved chestnut, found on the slopes of the Cascade Range may reach 75 feet in height in lower altitudes but at high altitudes must be classed as a shrub.

CONSOLING MUSIC

CASTAIC, Calif. (UP) — Eight members of the Ken Harris orchestra stood by helplessly Tuesday as flames destroyed their trailer and all their instruments. Bass player Bill Threste sang "I've Got Plenty of Nothing" while firemen fought the blaze.

Coming Events

May 10-11—Annual Spring Flower Show, Isaac Walton clubhouse, Salem.

May 18-19—American Rhododendron Society Show, Portland.

June 7-8—District Rose meeting and Show, Medford.

June 10-16—Rose Festival, Portland.

June 11-13—National convention, Men's Garden Clubs of America, Portland.

June 13—Rose Show, Portland.

June 14-15—Rose Show, Salem.

June 15-16 — Fort Vancouver Rose Show, Vancouver, Wash.

June 16—Open house, Seattle Men's Garden Club, Seattle.

July 11-13—Puget Sound Lily Association annual Show, Seattle.

Clinic Acquired

SILVERTON (Special)—Dr. R. J. VanCleave is now the sole owner and manager of the Silverton Clinic at 240 Phelps St., across the street from the Silverton Hospital. Dr. David Rosendale is to continue his association with the Silverton Clinic, Dr. VanCleave also announced.

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