

Chemicals Tested To Make Plants Poisonous to Bugs

Washington — (U.P.) — New chemicals that make the juice of growing plants temporarily poisonous are being tested by Agriculture department scientists.

The department said that if present and future tests turn out as expected, it will give farmers "a new approach... in the control of some of our most difficult insect pests."

Those insects which suck the juice of treated plants would be killed. Beneficial insects which merely crawl on the plants' surface would not be harmed.

People could eat the plants later because the poison after a time would disintegrate into the harmless elements from which it is concocted.

Tried Out in Britain

The chemicals, known as "systemic poisons," already are being used in the British Isles on a limited scale but the department said it wants to get proof of its tentative conclusions and learn far more about the effects of the chemicals before approving their use by American farmers.

Tentative results indicate the poisons might be of great value in insect control by wheat, corn and cotton producers and other farmers.

The agricultural scientists are interested particularly in learning exactly how long it takes before the poisons become harmless and they want to make further studies of the effects on beneficial insects.

The systemic poisons are concocted by treating with chemicals rock phosphate, a harmless substance used in making fertilizer.

Discovered by Germans

The poisons were discovered by German scientists working on the development of new poison gases during World War II. It was one of Nazi Germany's scientific discoveries which the allies learned about at the close of the war when teams of scientists advancing behind allied troops went through Germany's plants and laboratories.

The systemic poisons can be introduced into a plant's system in a variety of ways: Applying it to the soil, treating the seed before planting, or spraying or dusting the growing plant. There are a variety of chemicals involved. Some appear to be highly selective in the insects they will kill.

One of the chemicals, when sprayed on growing wheat, offers protection against greenbugs, a form of plant lice highly destructive to food grains.

Another chemical under test when applied to the soil will kill the European corn borer in the corn plant. A third will kill plant lice and mites on cotton when the cotton seed is treated before planting.

The boll weevil, however, does not seem to be affected by the systemic poisons. Except for the corn borer, a chewing insect, the poisons appear to be effective only against juice-sucking insects.

Moderate Income Home Promoted by Two East States

Chicago—(U.P.)—The National Association of Housing Officials reports that bills to provide homes for middle-income families through non-profit corporations and co-operatives have been introduced in New York and Massachusetts.

The association said the legislation is similar to that under consideration in congress. The congressional bill would set up a \$2,000,000,000 national mortgage corporation for housing co-operatives.

The U. S. treasury would supply the initial capital by buying up to \$10,000,000 of the corporation's preferred stock, and government-backed debentures would be available to private investors for the balance of the capitalization.

Interest Rate Low

The corporation would make loans to co-operatives and similar groups for 50 years at interest rates of from 3 to 3.5 per cent. Co-operative borrowers would be required to subscribe to the corporation's capital stock to the extent of 7.5 per cent of the face amount of the loan.

Under New York's bill, the formation of non-profit housing corporations by banks, veterans' organizations, labor unions, foundations and insurance companies would be authorized.

The co-operatives would put up 20 per cent of the money needed for construction and the rest would come from a \$100,000,000 state fund.

Long Term Loans

Repayment to the state would be in equal quarterly installments over periods up to 50 years. The proposed bond issue to finance the program would be subject to a referendum next November.

Whiskey Disappears, But All Is Legal as Sheriff Does Dumping

Smithfield, N. C.—(U.P.)—Sheriff C. L. Dennings probably has poured almost enough whiskey and beer down the drain to float a battleship.

In 60 months, Dennings disposed of 45,000 gallons of whiskey. For good measure, he put another 300,000 gallons of beer into the ground.

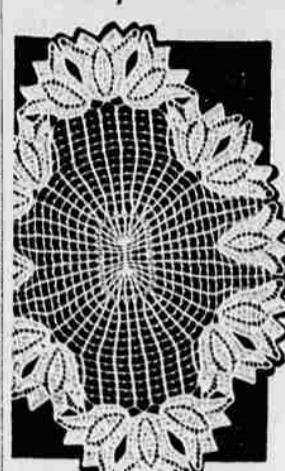
Dennings said whiskey has been found in the most amazing places. Spots of concealment included hens' nest, cook stoves, trap doors in walls and floors, heaters, and "water closets."

Some of the bootleggers fashion ingenious distilleries. One went so far as to equip his still with a mobile telephone to warn the operators of the approach of officers.

To find out how strong is an egg, Cornell university tested 3,998 eggs. The average pressure required to break an egg was 9.8 pounds, with the highest 18.7 pounds. Pressure was applied from end to end.

Convicted drunken drivers in Nebraska last year paid an average fine of \$56, reckless drivers \$17, and speeders \$13.

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Society

Annual Election Held By Lake Creek Unit; Plan Coming Events

Lake Creek—Officers for the coming year were elected by members of the Lake Creek Extension at a recent meeting held in the home of Mrs. E. E. Meyers.

Mrs. Leland Charley was elected chairman; Mrs. Arthur Purcell, vice chairman; Mrs. Bessie Arens, secretary; Mrs. Willard Cave, treasurer; and Mrs. Howard Willham, librarian.

Eighteen members and six visitors attended. Mrs. Lloyd George and Mrs. Adolph Peck demonstrated the broiled dinner project.

A talk on cancer was given by Mrs. Howard Willham.

Next meeting of the group will be Wednesday, May 31 at 10:30 a.m. in the home of Mrs. Willham.

Plans are being made by the members to attend the spring festival being held May 3 at 10:30 a.m. in the Central Point grange hall.

The Lake Creek unit is sponsoring a party in the Lake Creek grange hall April 29, for the purpose of raising funds for the Azalea house project. There will be square dancing and anyone interested in attending is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Pythian Sisters

Pythian club members will meet Tuesday, April 11 at 8 p. m., in the Girls' Community club. It will be a no host meeting and those attending are to take a sack lunch. "White elephants" will be awarded for card prizes.

Pythian Sisters degree staff practice will be held Thursday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pythian building. It will be a dress rehearsal.

Lively Oaks Club

Mrs. Homer Lamb will be hostess to members of Lively Oaks club members in her home Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Plans for the coming convention in Klamath Falls will be discussed.

The airplane Waikiki Beach in which the late Bill Odum flew non-stop from Honolulu to Teterboro, N. J., last summer, has been accepted by the Smithsonian Institution.

The federal agriculture department says more than 25 per cent of American farms have a trailer and almost half the farms have either a motor truck or a trailer.

The Pacific's largest atoll is Christmas island, south of Hawaii. Its discovery by the British Capt. James Cook on Christmas Eve, 1777, accounts for its name.

Girl Scout Committee To Meet on Monday; Leaders Plan Session

The Medford district Girl Scout committee will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, April 10, at the Scout house at 1:30 p.m. with neighborhood chairmen. Plans will be discussed for the Brownie revel for April 29, the dinner for first class scouts, the intermediate play day in May, and the reception for leaders in May.

Tuesday, April 11, intermediate leaders of the Medford district will meet at the Scout house at 1:30 p.m. They will present their first report on the cookie sale, receive folders on Camp Low Echo, and formulate plans for the troop courts of awards and set training dates.

Brownie leaders of the district will meet Wednesday, April 12, at 1:30 p.m. at the scout house. They will plan for the Brownie revel and flyup and report on the cookie sales.

Mrs. Marjorie Hopkins, executive director of the Girl Scouts, will attend the governor's conference to be held at Eugene April 12-14. This conference is a forerunner of the White House conference being held in Washington, D. C. in August. Mrs. Hopkins will especially attend the sessions on group work.

Mistletoe Club

Members of the Mistletoe club of Royal Neighbors of America will meet at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12 in the Girls Community club. Dessert will be served.

Barnums Here

Dr. and Mrs. William L. Barnum and sons, Bob and Bill, spent last week-end in Medford with Dr. Barnum's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Eldridge, 720 Park avenue.

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Mr. F. F. Brandon's Magic Key opened the Trowbridge and Flynn Treasure Chest and Bill Coffman is shown presenting a handsome Sunbeam Toaster to him. Mr. Brandon resides on 211 No. Ivy Street in Medford.

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