

3 Big Y's—SILVER DOLLAR STAMPS—3 Big Y's—SILVER DOLLAR STAMPS—3 Big Y's—SILVER DOLLAR STAMPS—3 Big Y's—SILVER DOLLAR STAMPS

Biologist Sees 'Mowless' Lawns Within 10 Years

Pasadena, Calif. (Science Service)—Ten years from now you will be able to sit on a lawn that needs no mowing and reach up to pick a normal-sized peach from the low branches of a dwarf tree.

This will be possible because within 10 years we will have an "anti-gibberellin," Dr. James A. Lockhart, biologist at the California Institute of Technology here, predicted.

Gibberellin, the hormone that plants secrete to induce stem growth, has been widely studied, Dr. Lockhart pointed out. Considerable research is under way to discover an anti-gibberellin which would suppress the growth of plants without affecting their ability to flourish and yield normal crops.

Slows Plant Growth
An application of this anti-gibberellin—perhaps in a spray form or as an additive to fertilizer—could slow plant growth so that grass, for example, would need virtually no trimming. Fruit trees treated with the anti-growth substance would be the same as normal trees except for their shortened stems or trunks. Dr. Lockhart based his prediction of the properties of the anti-gibberellin on what he has learned about gibberellin.

The hormone affects young cells, especially in the plant stem, promoting stem growth by counteracting the effects of sunlight. Light slows down stem growth by making the young cell walls more rigid. Gibberellin enables the cell walls to stretch, growing longer but not wider.

Polio Crippling Twice as Many As Last Year

Washington—(Science Service)—Polio is crippling twice as many people this year as it did last year at this time. United States Public Health officials are disturbed. This two to one ratio may continue for the entire polio season—and the season has just begun. Furthermore, the ratio may increase as the summer progresses.

Normally, the number of polio cases hits a peak sometime in August or September, Dr. C. C. Dauer, medical adviser at the PHS, told Science Service.

Increase Expected
There will undoubtedly be an increase in the number of cases reported as the season progresses. But officials are keeping their fingers crossed that the increase does not surpass the number of reported cases for the peak season of 1958.

Surgeon General LeRoy Burney has repeatedly warned that the polio season is approaching. More than 40,000,000 persons in the United States still have not received their Salk shots.

The PHS has even suggested that those who have received three shots could gain added protection from a fourth booster shot. Pregnant women, the most susceptible, and persons who expect to travel in areas where polio is expected, plus those who have not had a Salk shot for several years were urged to do so.

Former Jeweler Now Makes Crowns

Cleveland, Ohio—(UPI)—Richard Long has a head start on success. He makes crowns. "Sometimes people don't believe me when I tell them what I do," he said. "I have to show them the catalog."

A former jeweler's benchman, Long teamed up three years ago with Harold Gilbert to buy a small crown-making company. Gilbert handles the sales and shipping. Long works at their shop after his regular job as a tool and die-maker.

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