

Simple Plant Figuring in Space Flights

Washington (UP) —One of nature's simplest plants is figuring in some mighty big plans these days — including manned space flights.

Scientists are finding out more and more about algae, which probably were among the first forms of vegetation to grow on the earth, and still are going strong.

Those who hold to the theory that an expanding world population may one day bring about a food crisis are keeping an eye on these developments. Because algae can be used for food.

Vitamin Source

Researchers also predict that algae may become a rich source of vitamins, animal feed, fertilizer and other valuable organic products.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has announced that algae may play a key part in man's pioneering flights into space. Aboard a space vehicle, the fast-growing plants would absorb the carbon dioxide breathed out by the astronauts and furnish them with oxygen in return.

Could Be Food

The spacemen could use the algae as food. And so that they could have meat as well as vegetable, they could feed small animals on the algae while in flight.

Algae vary in type and sizes from the microscopic growths which cause the phenomenon of red-tinted snow to the kelp plants found at the bottom of the sea and which stretch 600 feet or more.

Algae grow in fresh water, in the ocean and on land. Most seaweeds are algae — and some types of seaweed have been a staple of the diet in the Orient for many years.

Probably the best-known form, though, is the green scum that forms in ponds and lakes and provides rich fare for fish.

The fresh-water algae now promise to help man solve the growing problem of disposing of sewage in big cities.

For the past eight years, Dr. C. M. Palmer and Harold J. Walter have been doing research in this field at the U.S. Public Health Service's Sanitary Engineering Center in Cincinnati.

Described in Booklet

They have just issued a booklet describing their work. It is designed primarily as a guidebook for operators of waterworks and disposal systems.

The best system found to date for decomposing sewage after it has been run through the settling basins, filters and so on is to dump in certain bacteria or other micro-organisms.

The reason algae can be so important in this field: They are capable of supporting immense populations of the type of bacteria used.

Coffins Lacking In Mexico Flood

Mexico City — (UP) — The survivors Saturday ran out of coffins to bury the victims of a cyclone-driven flood in the Pacific coast port of Manzanillo. A typhoid epidemic threatened.

The 31 Americans in the city were reported "in good shape" but 286 bodies of Mexicans had been pulled from the mud and debris of wrecked homes in the once-bustling city of 15,000. More victims were believed still embedded in the wreckage left by the monstrous waves and violent winds of Tuesday's storm. Officials stuck to their estimate of as many as 2,000 dead in four coastal states.

Relief workers were under orders to bury the dead as quickly as possible. The water and drainage systems in Manzanillo and other towns were wrecked.

Ike, Nikita Agreed on Peaceful Settlements

Moscow — (UP) — Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev reported to parliament Saturday that he and President Eisenhower are agreed that world problems must be settled by "negotiations and not by force." His remarkably mild-toned policy address stressed mutual concessions and early summit talks.

Elgin Air Force Base, Fla. — (UP) — The first completely self-guided flight of a Gam 77 Hound Dog missile down the Atlantic missile test range was pronounced a "complete success" Saturday.



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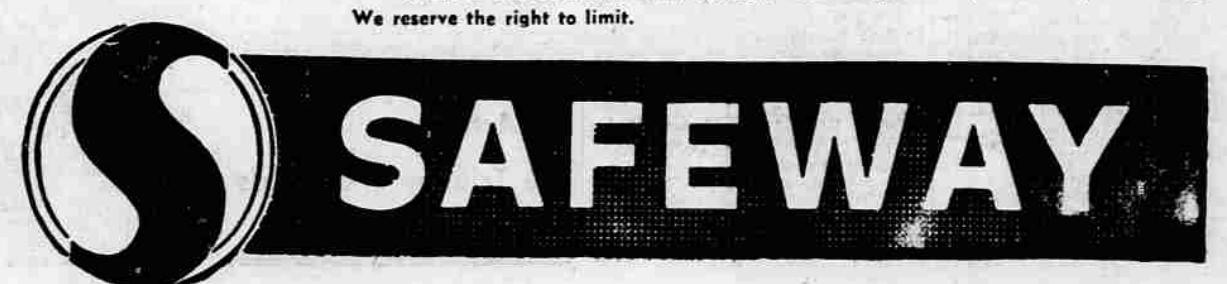
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