

Pesky Flies and Mosquitos Getting Immune to Sprays?

TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 14 (AP)—You'd better get your fly-swatter and mosquito-slapping hand in shape—because next spring and summer those pests may give you your roughest time since the advent of DDT and other new insect killers.

That's the view of Dr. A. M. Boyce of the University of California, president of the American Association of Economic Entomologists.

Getting Tough

He says that growing evidence of the resistance of the house-fly to DDT and other powerful new insecticides, and recent findings that some species of common mosquitoes are getting too tough for DDT, add up to this gloomy outlook for next year:

1. Increasing areas of the nation may find their flies have built up the resistance already reported from many sections—not only to DDT but to other chemicals developed since its advent.
2. More areas may find the mosquito resistance to DDT already noted in a few sections, and additional resistance strains may crop up. Furthermore, it might well be that nature's No. 1 dive-bomber will begin to build up the brush-off to a few strong insecticides which now work where DDT will not.

The latter chemicals are "Lindane," and a third named "Toxaphene."

Pointing out that those three chemicals at first worked against strains of house-flies that had become coy to DDT—but then showed evidence of having shot their bolts—Boyce told a reporter:

"The same thing could well happen in the case of mosquitoes, although we're hoping it won't."

Threatening

"This matter of resistance on the part of house-flies and mosquitoes could get really rough. It's possible that the people will eventually have to go back to the old method of the flyswatter for the fly and hand-slapping for the mosquito."

But while he declared that this matter of resistance constitutes the prime problem of insect researchers, he said there are hopes of overcoming it—and most of them are based on lessons of the continuing war being waged against pests which attack the rich citrus crops of Texas, California and Florida. Those states are the country's chief sources of citrus fruits.

Declaring that most of the advances made against all agricultural crop enemies of the nation stem from researches done on citrus pests, Boyce gave this outline:

Citrus-bug researchers believe they have worked out the hereditary pattern of pest resistance to insecticides—opening up the possibility of crossing extremely susceptible strains with extremely resistant touches for a good insecticide. These same researchers have determined exactly how an insecticide



MANILA REBUILDS — War-wrecked remains of the University of Manila, Philippine Islands, are among buildings to be considered under the program for the "new" Manila.

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Old Covenant Doooms New Building

WASHINGTON (AP)—Louis Burman, real estate man, built a store building. Then a resident of the neighborhood brought up an 1881 covenant which prohibited buildings from extending closer than 30 feet from the sidewalk.

Burman went to court and lost. The case went to the supreme court, which refused to rule.

"I guess I'll have to tear down the whole building," Burman said, "but I'm seriously considering setting up a tombstone on the vacant lot."

works when it does work—opening up the possibility of building up even more powerful compounds than are now available.

Most Houses In Their Dotage

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Old houses can be said to be subject to hardening of the arteries.

That's the conclusion drawn from a study of home obsolescence conducted by Tom McDonald, vice president of the Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co. His sampling indicates that 51 per cent of the 49,000,000 homes in the U. S. are more than 30 years old. In most cases they are still equipped with lighting and plumbing fixtures, heating plants and other accessories that belonged to a past generation.

"This brings about a kind of hardening of the arteries through increasing maintenance costs and decreasing property values," says McDonald, who was primarily interested in finding that only about 8,000,000

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