

# A wasp from Southern France may hold some hope for control of the elm blight.

JACOBSEN F-20  
from  
Illinois lawn equipment inc.

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MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF FOUNDATION FIELD DAY,  
will be September 25, 9:30 to 4:00 P.M.

That \$3500 automobile you are about to buy will cost you about \$11,900 over a 10-year period. It may be easier to swallow if we place it at \$3.26 a day or 11.9 cents a mile over the 100,000-mile life of the car. These are gloomy statistics compiled by the United States Department of Transportation's Bureau of Public Roads.

The bureau estimates that the average four-door sedan costs the owner about 90 cents a pound but is cheaper than steak. If you were to drive the car 100,000 miles, it would cost you approximately \$8,500 for gasoline, insurance, repairs, taxes, tolls and other upkeep by the time it finishes its journey.

If a new car, for example, was bought for \$3200, an automobile which today would be considered a small car, would be driven 14,500, depreciation would be \$955. This divided by the 14,500 miles, amounts to approximately 6.6 cents a mile. If the owner keeps it two years and sells or trades it for \$1,672 when it has been driven 27,500 miles, depreciation would be \$1,513, which divided by the 27,500 miles would be \$757 a year or 5.5 cents a mile.

## Pesticide Accidents

by Stanley Rachesky  
Entomologist, University of Illinois

For the past ten years data on pesticide accidents among children in Illinois has been collected. During the periods of 1961 to 1970, approximately 121,270 children were taken to a doctor or hospital because the child ingested or was contaminated by a hazardous substance. All such cases of pesticide accidents involving children under 12 years of age are reported to the Illinois Department of Public Health through one of the downstate poison centers.

Where do pesticides as a group rank with other materials as a source of hazard? Pesticides were involved in an average of 741 cases per year ranging from 567 to 872 per year over the ten-year period. This is 6.1 percent of the total cases. Individual years ranged from a high of 7.3 to a low of 5.2 percent. Medicines of all kinds were involved in 60.8 percent of the cases.

Is there a seasonal fluctuation in the ingestion of hazardous substances? The peak time for ingestion of medicines was in the winter months; ingestion of household preparations was somewhat higher in the fall; both pesticides and paint were ingested more commonly from late spring until fall than at any other time.

Are certain pesticides more commonly ingested at one time of the year? Rodent-bait ingestions were highest in November and December. Ingestion of other baits was most common from May through August. Roach-poison ingestions were highest in the fall.

What major pests were the parents attempting to control? Pesticides for rats, mice, ants, clothes moths, and roaches accounted for about 82 percent of all accidental ingestions. Also, over one-half (58.6) of the ingestion cases involved the pesticide used as a bait.

What pesticides were most commonly involved in pesticide accident cases? Anticoagulant rodent baits led the list with the arsenicals next in order. Naphthalene and PDB were next (moth-proofing products, balls, flakes, nuggets).

What can parents do to reduce the risk of children getting into pesticides? The answer to this question is the same as it was in 1961. It involves **avoiding the use of baits** to control rats, mice, ants, and roaches whenever possible. If they are used, keep them where small children cannot get into them. From 1961 to 1970 an average of 267 children in downstate Illinois ate mothballs.

Spring and summer will soon be with us once again. Golf course superintendents will be putting around the lawn, vegetable and flower gardens. Avoid a problem this year, use your insecticides, fungicides, herbicides (weed killers), act cautiously and only in accordance with the label instructions. The most important three minutes in pest control . . . is the time it takes to read and understand the label.

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### N.A.C. NEWSLETTER

#### How'd We Make It This Far

Although researchers have long known that mercury appears as a natural element in our environment, recent studies have added a new dimension to this knowledge. Dr. Edwin Wilmsen of the University of Michigan reports that he has found evidence of mercury in preserved fish ranging from 300 to

2,000 years of age! Not only that but the concentrations of mercury were often above the permissible level as designated by the Food and Drug Administration.

### For the Complete Organic Program

Scientists at the Pittsburgh Energy Research Center of the U. S. Bureau of Mines have devised a means of converting animal manure to fuel by heating it under pressure with carbon monoxide to produce oil. Three barrels of oil can be produced from a ton of dry manure.

One researcher noted, "if all animal wastes could be collected and converted to oil, it would satisfy about half of this country's oil needs, or about 2.45 billions barrels of oil annually. In effect, it's a way to harness the sun's energy in an economical manner."

Another scheme for using animal wastes has been developed in Devonshire, England, where automotive fuel has been processed from chicken and pig manure, although any organic waste will suffice.

The fresh manure is composted briefly and placed in a digester where methane gas is generated by bacterial action. To complete the process, a simple gas converter has been devised by Harold Bate, Devonshire, which will feed methane into the carburetor of a car. Total installation cost of the converter is less than \$100.

Besides solving the animal waste disposal problem, the manure-powered car contributes to cleaner air; methane gas affords nearly complete combustion — about 97% — while gas only gives about 27% combustion with the remaining unburned fuel being emitted in the car's exhaust.

In addition, the manure-powered vehicle is efficient and inexpensive to run. Bate estimates the equivalent of one gallon of premium gasoline costs 3¢ and causes very little wear on the car.

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### Safe DDT Substitutes Developed

URBANA, Ill. April 9 (AP) — University of Illinois researchers have developed DDT-type pesticides which apparently have the ability of DDT to kill insects without the undesirable side effects.

Dr. Robert L. Metcalf, head of the five-year research effort, will be honored at the American Chemical Society's annual meeting in Boston this week for the discovery. He has been named to receive the International Award for Research in Pesticide Chemistry.

#### Commercial Potential

About 100 DDT analogs—or relatives—have been developed, of which 10 or 12 "have solid commercial potential," Metcalf said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Even though development of these new pesticides was completed last year, Metcalf said, no manufacturer has yet obtained a production license from the University of Illinois Foundation, which holds the patent rights.

Japanese firms have expressed more interest in them than American firms have, he said.

The DDT-type pesticides can be produced in existing facilities for manufacturing DDT, some of which are idle — or about to be — because of government restrictions on the use of this pesticide.

#### Killer of Wildlife

DDT is a persistent man-made chemical which is passed in the food chain and stored in animal fat.

Although the effects of DDT on the human body are not known, it has killed many wildlife species — especially fish and birds — and has caused birds to lay eggs with shells too weak to hatch.

Some mammals, including rats, mice, hamsters, dogs and monkeys, have been shown to develop cancer, birth defects and genetic mutations in laboratory studies with DDT.

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