

"FIRECRACKER'S"

With July Firecrackers comes Summer pressure,
Sometimes with Pestilence beyond measure.
While "In the good Old Summertime" is sung,
We Pray It's not the Year We're stung.
Pessimistic? With good reason I'd guess,
Fall will tell the story,
How We passed the test.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

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Charcoal When It's Wet — Beware

Be careful how you store charcoal in summer heat, fire officials warn. If charcoal briquettes get wet, they can heat internally and — with air temperatures in the 90s and above — ignite spontaneously.

Charcoal should be stored in a cool, dry place. If it gets wet, it should be dried thoroughly where fire is not a danger, such as on the lid of a garbage can or on a cookie sheet. Once it is dry, it can be used normally. Because of the fire hazard, wet charcoal should not be discarded with other combustibles.

Arthropods

Common soil arthropods belong to a restricted number of orders which include:

Arachnids	spiders and mites
Myriapods	millepedes, centipedes
Collembola	springtails
Coleoptera	beetle larvae
Diptera	flies, ants, termites.

Mites feed on decaying organic matter. They are from 0.1 to 1 millimeter in size and can easily feed inside of dead plant roots. They burrow actively and help keep soils aerated.

Myriapods are active feeders on decaying plant remains. Some feed on living plant parts when soil organic matter is low. Some ingest soil particles and in so doing, condition the soil in the process. The gut of many of these organisms is favorable for the humification of plant residues. Small woodlice are often more active in soils too dry for earthworms.

Springtails are wingless insects that are from 0.5 to 2 millimeters long. They feed on decaying organic matter.

Beetle larvae are much larger and have a greater impact on the soil as burrowers. Also, they often feed on living grass roots.

Fly larvae live on decaying organic matter for the most part. Ants and termites are soil movers primarily, although some termites do ingest soil and mix it with organic matter.

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