



DO PLANTS RESPOND TO LOVE?

To this question there are those who will answer emphatically and unequivocally, "Yes!" High school students repeatedly in science fair projects have subjected various types of plants to "thought waves" and to "sound waves." One set of plants, assaulted and bombarded with raucous rock and roll at high decibel levels, grew stunted and unthrifty. Another equal set heard only calm, soothing music (Brahms, Mendelssohn, Stravinsky and others). Reports indicate that the calm "loving" music produced more robust, healthier plants that bore flowers and fruit profusely.

Other projects report on the effects on plants of the human voice and mental attitude of the gardener. One set of plants was subjected to harsh, coarse voices. An equal set "heard" soft, loving voices and received tender loving care. Again, love conquered; the plants produced abundant flowers and fruit.

I would have a hard time finding these references again among all the various magazines I read voraciously. What I have synopsized above accurately describes the information I have gleaned from authentic publications.

Occasionally, I accept a reading assignment that is so difficult I must keep my dictionary open at my side. Such a book, which I've only read once (but will re-read many times), is "The Delicate Creation, Towards a Theology of the Environment" by Christopher Derrick, published by Devin-Adair. In the book the author suggests that 20th century man contains within himself a tendency toward an ancient heresy (Mani-

chaean), which views the world and environment as evil and hostile and nature as an enemy (hate). He suggests, for the good of man's future, that man replace this hostility with a "cosmic piety" (love). This view acknowledges the world as good and lovely, as something to be loved and cherished, although it may cost man something in material comfort and economic expansion. A workable "cosmic piety" might give all of us a chance to sit quietly, get our breath back and discover peace, quiet and the human value of friends and neighbors. Perhaps the hard-to-read brilliance of Derrick and his "cosmic piety" does have something in common with the science fair students' experiments.

Before the environmental crisis destroys all of us, certainly we will lose nothing if we develop a calm, quiet loving approach to nature. I believe most of my friends in turf practice "cosmic piety" without being aware of it. Our rare and fragile home, earth, has not yet been destroyed. With our help, it may yet be renewed.

Q—*We have an area (tee size) adjacent to one of our teeing areas that is continuously saturated. There is no good way to drain it. We think there may even be a spring there. Our mowers frequently get bogged down. It's an eye sore. Do you have any suggestions?* (Pennsylvania)

A—Yes, capitalize on the continuous supply of moisture. Stop trying to grow and mow grass and convert the "eye sore" into a beauty spot by growing wetland and bog plants for beauty, interest and utility. Space the plants and identify them with suitable modest markers. Tell your members through

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