

Proper Fungicide Use Detailed

For best results in controlling plant diseases, fungicides must be used properly, Dr. R. E. Partyka, Ohio State University extension plant pathologist, advises. He suggests the following precautions in applying fungicides:

1. Read label carefully, and follow directions exactly;
2. Be certain to use proper material for exact crop and disease, as some fungicides may injure certain crops;
3. Since fungi do not move about on leaf surfaces, proper

coverage is essential; make certain all foliage is thoroughly covered;

4. Measure material accurately, since too little will not give good protection, and too much may cause injury or give excess residues;
5. Apply at regular intervals, because organic breakdown and growth of new leaves may eliminate effectiveness; a 7-10 day application interval is recommended;
6. Wash hands before eating or smoking; and
7. Store fungicides in a safe place.

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Trimmings

A challenge to Rachel. We just received in the mail a printed duplicate of a letter from McMahon Brothers to Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, the book which kicked off all the pesticide investigations. Signed by Robert J. McMahon, president of the Binghamton, N.Y., contract applying firm, the letter pointedly challenges Miss Carson to stand behind her allegations. Says Mr. McMahon to Miss Carson: "All of the roads and highways in Delaware are under one highway system. We will treat all the roads on one side in the same manner we recommend to our customers. You could treat all of the roads on the other side with the methods you propose." Then, the letter goes on, after adequate tests of costs and safety factors, McMahon Brothers, if proved wrong, will pay to Miss Carson an amount equal to all their profits from highway weed and brush control since the first day the company incorporated. "If, however, you are wrong," the letter goes on, "you will agree to pay us all of the profits and royalties from your books over the same period of time." While it is doubtful such a contest could be enacted, this dramatic challenge underlines the need for analysis of the facts, not fancies, of roadside spraying, and should be an effective public relations piece for McMahon.

Florida weedmen in news. Down in Miami, where the climate is a real boon to weed growth, chemical herbicides are very much in the news, thanks to the Miami Herald's garden editor, Nixon Smiley, and a trio of turf experts that includes veteran sprayman Charlie Johnson, whose company is in Miami; Dr. Evert O. Burt, University of Florida turf specialist; and Ralph White of Ousley Sod Company in Pompano Beach. A recent Sunday edition of the Herald devoted a whole page of the garden section to the problems of lawn weed control, and headlined an article on types of chemical weedkillers by the three crack turfmen mentioned above. A nice piece of publicity for the turf industry in general, this kind of recognition is a special plum for Florida applicators and turf supervisors.

Feather-in-cap department. James S. Wood, president of Superior Fertilizer and Chemical Co. of Tampa, Fla., has been elected to the Board of Governors of the National Plant Food Institute, we learned recently. Since only 12 chemical company executives were added to the board at the NPFI meeting in White Sulphur Springs last month, it is a particularly significant honor for the Florida fertilizer manufacturer.

On the move. Several staff changes in horticultural and botany departments around the country were announced recently. Up in Connecticut, Dr. Hubert B. Vickery, distinguished plant physiologist, has retired and accepted the title of biochemist emeritus. In neighboring Massachusetts, Prof. Grant Snyder is retiring as head of the U. of Mass. horticulture department, ending a career of 41 years in plant sciences. Across the country at the University of New Mexico, Dr. Fred B. Widmoyer, formerly at the University of Connecticut, becomes new horticulture chief. Congratulations to all involved!