

## Ornamentals; Scientists Launch Investigations

Cuban insect pests have invaded the United States and scientists at the University of California have begun chemical warfare studies on how to combat them. The invaders, Cuban laurel thrips, threaten ornamental fig trees in southern California coastal cities.

These thrips feed upon new, tender leaves, which become deformed and greatly reduce the ornamental value of the trees. Severely infested trees may lose half of their leaves and growth is stunted.

The economic significance of the thrips was emphasized by Walter S. Barrows, field manager of a landscape firm that cares for Santa Barbara's ornamental fig trees and other landscaping. He estimates that all of the county's 5,000 valuable ornamental trees may have to be replaced if the Cuban laurel thrips are not controlled. "Since each tree is worth \$450, this could mean a loss of as much as \$2,250,000 in Santa Barbara alone," he points out.

### Chemical to Fight Thrips

Meanwhile, three researchers at the University of California Agricultural Extension Service have prepared and experimentally applied a new insecticide which they hope will reach and kill the destructive insect where conventional chemicals fail. They are Jack L. Bivins, Santa Barbara County farm advisor; Andrew S. Deal, Extension entomologist, Riverside, Calif.; and William R. Bowen, technician, Riverside.

"We are using a systemic chemical," Bivins explained. "This is a compound that is taken up by the roots of the tree and becomes part of the tree's sap system. It is the only way we can get at the thrips, because the insect hides inside the leaves, which roll up tightly as the insect feeds on them."

Preliminary tests with the new chemical have controlled thrips

in only 40% of the cases, but Bivins, Deal and Bowen hope to improve this figure through better application methods.

### Offers Leaflet on Thrips

Cuban laurel thrips are considered so serious and so difficult to kill that the University of California has issued a publica-



Entitled, "Cuban Laurel Thrips," the leaflet is available free from the Agricultural Extension Service (farm advisor) in most California counties.

Authors of the leaflet, Leland R. Brown and Clark O. Eads, of the U.C. Riverside department of entomology, report that Cuban laurel thrips were first discovered in San Diego County in 1959. Within 5 years the species rapidly spread through Los Angeles,

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Orange, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Mateo counties.

Entomologist Brown noted that the Cuban laurel thrips, although recently found in San Mateo, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, is not yet a pest in these areas. It is considered a pest only in cities from Santa Barbara southward along the coast. This includes cities with coastal climates, such as Anaheim, Orange and Santa Ana. Drier inland communities have not yet been affected.

The pest, common in Cuba, Mexico and many Caribbean islands, usually attacks laurel fig or Cuban laurel, *Ficus retusa*. In California thrips attack *Ficus retusa* and its cousin *Ficus nitida*.

Cuban laurel, or laurel fig, abounds in southern California because it is a handsome, small ornamental tree which resists smog and dust. It grows at the rapid rate of a foot per year but its roots do not spread out to break pavement.

### Fore Registration Expanded

Fore, turf and ornamental fungicide introduced by Rohm and Haas Co. in April, recently received broader registration from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Dithane-45 fungicide may now be used on turfgrass for the control of rust, Pythium blight, and algae and on gladiolus for leaf and petal spot.

USDA originally registered Fore's use on turfgrass covered by dollar spot (*Sclerotinia*), Fusarium blight, red thread, slime



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molds, copper spot, Helminthosporium melting out, Rhizoctonia brown patch, and Fusarium snow mold. Complete information about Fore is available from A & S C Dept., Rohm & Haas Co., Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105.

### Rohm and Haas Moves Offices

Rohm and Haas Co., chemical manufacturers, has changed its Philadelphia headquarters from Washington Square to Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105. New telephone number is (215) 592-3000.

## Literature you'll want

Here are the latest government, university, and industrial publications of interest to contract applicators. Some can be obtained free of charge, while others are nominally priced. When ordering, include title and catalog number, if any. Sources follow booklet titles.

**Bindweed Control in Oklahoma**, E-668, Agricultural Mailing Room, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

**Lawn Diseases, How To Control Them**, Catalog No. A 1.77:61/3, 1964, 16 pp., color il., 15¢, Supt. of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

**Chemical Control of Brush and Trees**, Catalog No. A 1.9:2158/2, 1964, 23 pp., il., 15¢, Supt. of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

**Common Poisonous Plants of New England**, Catalog No. FS 2.2:P75/5, 1964, 23 pp., color il., 35¢, Supt. of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

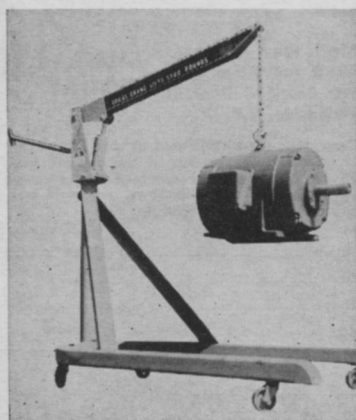
**Clover Mites, How To Control Them Around The Home**, Catalog No. A 1.35:443/3, 1964, 6 pp., il., 5¢, Supt. of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

### New Weedicide From Signal

"Calsonate-W," a new chemical said to control weedy grasses, broadleaf weeds, and other nuisance plants around all non-crop areas, is now available from Signal Chemical Mfg. Co., Inc.

This weedicide can be diluted with water for wet spray application, at costs as low as 55 cents per gal., or spread in dry pellet dustless form, the company says.

For more detailed information on Calsonate-W write to Signal Chemical Mfg. Co., Inc., 5020 Richmond Rd., Bedford, Ohio.



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