

Plant Pathologist Suggests Diagnosis of Plant Ailments

Sometimes applicators may be asked by customers to recommend treatment for ailing house plants. In this case it is well to remember the advice of Claude L. King, Extension plant pathologist at Kansas State University. He says that ailments of house plants are not usually due to diseases but to an environmental condition.

He suggests that the following diagnosis may help determine the causes.

1. If the lower leaves are turning yellow and falling off readily, the cause may be overwatering.
2. If there are long spaces between small leaves, there may be too little light and/or the room temperature is too high.
3. Yellowing and loss of leaves at various stem levels may be caused by chilling, overwatering, poor drainage and aeration, or presence of gas fumes.
4. Small leaves may be the re-

sult of poor drainage, too heavy a soil, or too little water.

5. Burned or brown leaf tips and edges may be the result of too little water, too much fertilizer, or too low temperature.

6. Very dark green leaves, limpness, and poor growth may be the result of too much fertilizer.

"If you follow all of the current practices and still have trouble, it may be that the water used to irrigate the plants is not suitable. In this case, catch some rainwater and use it. The soil mixtures also vary for different kinds of plants," King concluded.

Geigy Herbicide Renamed

Similarity of names applied to several herbicides produced by Geigy Agricultural Chemicals has prompted the company to change the name of Prometryne, a recent development, to Caparol. Further information is available to those who write to Geigy at Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley, N. Y.

Trimnings

Too Tough to Take. Had a news release from Ortho Division, California Chemical Co. recently about a new film the company has available called, "Come With Me Into the Garden." Described as a film of general interest rather than an educational or commercial one, the 8 minute flick stars Moviedom's Carroll Baker, a torrid blond who would enhance the most drab backyard landscape. We imagine the Ortho technicians gave wholehearted attention to their duties in filming Miss Baker's tour through her own grounds, which apparently feature some truly stunning roses!

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Art and Hammer. One of the most magnanimous gestures we've come across recently was the donation of a splendid million-dollar art collection to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. The 50-odd paintings were until recently the property of Occidental Petroleum Corp. president Dr. Armand Hammer (Occidental produces, among other things, fertilizers for vegetation maintenance). Dr. Hammer spent 40 years assembling the collection, which includes Rembrandt, Hals, Rubens, Van Dyck, the two Breughel's, Pieter de Hooch, and others. A fine bit of philanthropy on the part of an extremely successful industry leader of today!

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Shear Resourcefulness! National Arborist Association member Edward C. Shearer and Mrs. Shearer, who took charge of local arrangements for the NAA's 14th annual mid-winter meeting in Tampa, Fla., earlier this year, had to use "Yankee (begging your pardon)" ingenuity when the hotel where the tree specialists were to meet closed its doors. NAA president Winston A. Parker complimented the pair on their resourcefulness in their successful efforts to find another location. Covering the event for WTT was Daniel Dowd, of the Agricultural and Technical Institute of the State University of New York in Farmingdale, L.I., N.Y. Dan's also secretary of the Long Island Arborist Assn., of which Harder Arborist Supply's Bob Felix is currently president.

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Battle-seasoned Herbicides. The New York Times reported recently in a special feature that the weed-killers 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T are still in use as defoliating agents in the sweltering jungles of South Vietnam. These chemical tools, known to applicators for their wide use in agriculture and industrial weed and brush control, help destroy spots where guerilla bands of the Viet Cong may lie in ambush. Since use of chemicals for peaceful purposes in this country has itself been subjected to abuse by well-meaning but basically uninformed opponents in recent years, it's no surprise to find that charges of "chemical warfare" have been leveled against the U.S. for employing the relatively harmless materials!



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