

Anti-Pesticide Suit Reaps Need For Double Dieldrin

Court action to prevent the Department of Agriculture from using pesticides to control Japanese beetles in southwestern Michigan has ironically resulted in the present need to treat twice as much land with double the dose of dieldrin that was originally prescribed, according to "The Voice of M.A.N.," the official publication of the Michigan Association of Nurserymen, Inc.

A federal court decision from Grand Rapids last fall denied an injunction against the use of dieldrin but came too late to allow 2800 acres of Japanese beetle-infested Berrien County—one of the nation's largest producers of fruit, vegetables and nursery stock—to be treated with 2½ tons of the granular soil residual insecticide.

This fall, reports "The Voice of M.A.N.," court action started in Wisconsin and transferred to Michigan again failed to produce an injunction, but this time the decision came in time to permit the treatment of 4800 acres with 5 tons of dieldrin.

This doubling of land and insecticide could have been avoided, say department officials, if the lesser amount on the smaller acreage could have been applied last year. Due to lack of control agents, the beetle population in the infested Michigan area grew considerably.

The infested area includes a great deal of brushland as well as residential properties in wooded terrain. Control of the infestation was necessary to prevent the beetles from spreading to adjoining agricultural lands. Aerial spraying covered over 4200 acres

of infested land, while more than 500 acres were treated by hand.

Opposition to the spraying by an out-of-state group stemmed from the fear of endangering wildlife and adding to the contamination of Lake Michigan. The dieldrin treatment was finally approved, however, because it was the only way to effectively control the destructive beetles.

Van Wormer Gives Tips On Lightning Protection

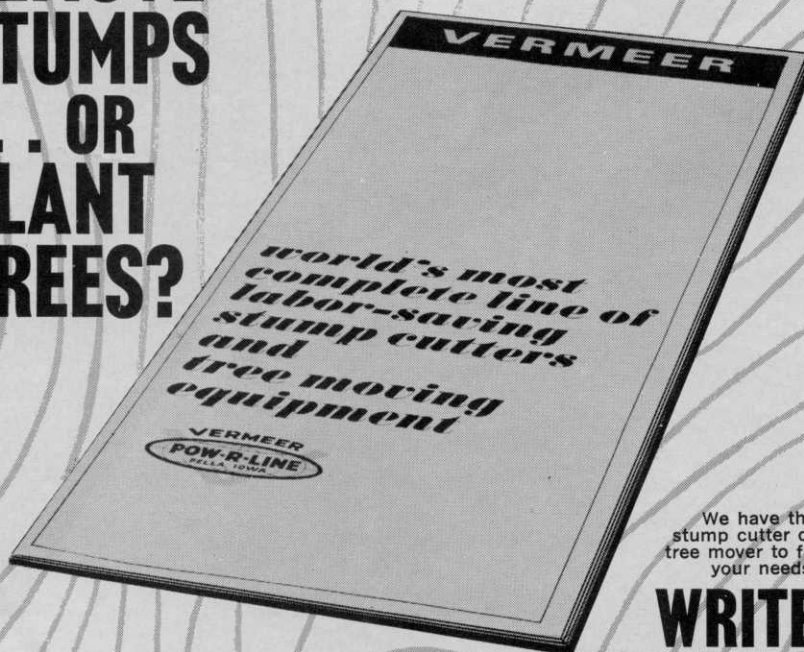
Concern regarding the importance of lightning rods to trees and the potential danger of underground wires leading from homes to driveway lamp posts has been voiced by H. M. Van Wormer of the Van Wormer Tree Service Co., Richmond, Va.

Van Wormer reports that lightning seems to follow a well-defined pattern. One seldom-mentioned occurrence, he says, is the tree-to-lamp post-to-underground wiring cycle. Any tree that is at least 40 feet tall and within 50 feet of a lamp post should be rodded, he believes.

He cites five cases in one summer alone in which lightning, after striking a tree, jumped the distance to the light fixture and then entered the underground wiring system, burning out a good deal of the house wiring. A strike last summer, he reveals, involved lightning that struck a pine growing close to a house. After damaging 20 feet of the pine's top, it jumped over the house and traveled down one of a cluster of oaks. Several of these trees, connected by plastic clothes lines, were damaged. From there the lightning went into the inside wiring of the garage.

"On a recent restoration job," Van Wormer reports, "I made a survey of the trees that had been struck along a driveway one mile long, or two miles of trees. Evidence of strikes was

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