

Leading Conservationist Backs Pesticide Use

One of the nation's leading conservationists supported the continued use of all pesticides in a speech at the annual meeting of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Robert White Stevens, chairman and professor of the Bureau of Conservation and Environmental Science, Rutgers University, said, "There can be no progress from the out-of-hand banning of useful, effective and safe agricultural chemicals until there are equally efficient methods to replace them."

"Chemical controls," he continued, "are the only known effective method for depressing such pests as insects, disease, weeds, nematodes, and vermin."

According to Dr. White Stevens the use of pesticides and fertilizers in North America has resulted in the "most munificent, highest quality, cheapest, and safest food supply in man's long history."

Decrying attacks by his conservationist colleagues, he said that the "varied critics of scientific agricul-



"I'm not too fond of the way he sends you long distance."

ture accept its benefits and munificence while they blithely disrupt and destroy it without any valid suggestions as to how it can be replaced by methods of comparable efficiency and productivity."

He also told the Farm Broadcasters that "the current proposed depression in the use of agricultural chemicals can be defined as the triumph of superstition, prejudice and emotion over science."

Sod Heating Damage Cut by Close Mowing

The best way to keep sod from heating and deteriorating during shipment is to cut it at 3/4-inch, remove the clippings and keep the shipping temperature under 87 degrees.

A team of Michigan State University researchers concluded that most other attempts to control sod damage—including the use of a chemical respiration inhibitor—were not effective.

Drs. John King, now with the University of Arkansas, and James Beard, MSU turfgrass researcher, reported their findings at the annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy.

They also noted that sod is less likely to tear when sod growers applied lower rates of nitrogen (150 pounds per acre per year) rather than normal recommended levels (215 pounds per acre per year). Root production was higher for sod produced with below normal nitrogen fertilization, thus the greater sod strength.

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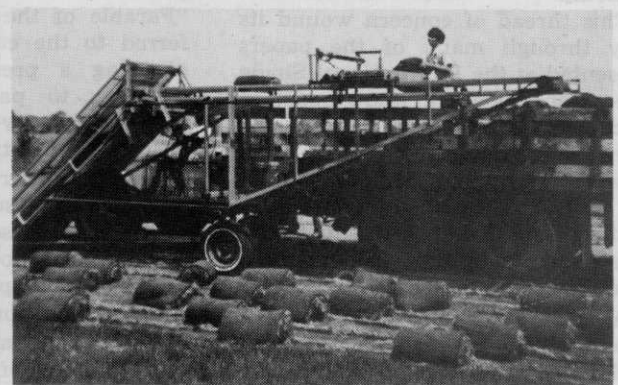
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