trimmings

EPA ADMINISTRATOR WILLIAM RUCKELSHAUS apparently is getting his new agency underway in a commendable manner. However, he did make two slight mistakes recently. First, he agreed to appear on television with two entertainers who proceeded to distinguish themselves with their less than intelligent appraisals of the pesticide-environment fiasco we live with today. Secondly, in his session with Henry Gibson of Laugh-In notariety and Eddie Albert, he tried to tell Gibson that malathion was pronounced as me-lath-ion, with the emphasis on the me. Albert was quite emotional in his appeal to the EPA administrator to do more to restrict DDT (and other chemicals). Gibson's discusion (and poetry) closely approached the intelligence level of his normal performance on Laugh-In.

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ORGANIC GARDENING received a mention in a recent New York Extension Service newsletter. A. Sherf in stating that the old practice of organic gardening is at the forefront of the new ecology movement said that use of "night soil", wood ashes for insects, marigolds for nematodes, etc., leave much to be desired. He then quoted the oft-quoted Earl Butz of Purdue University who once said that "organic farming was practiced successfully 100 years ago in America and might work again if someone could figure out how to feed those millions of Americans who depend on foods made possible by use of pesticides."

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A CANADIAN IS RECOMMENDING SUCTION CUP SHOES for football players when they play on artificial turf. Seems that in a study of 228 high school games in the Seattle, Wash., area that there were far more injuries on artificial turf than on natural grass (ain't that revoltin'). Dr. Tome Fried, co-chairman of the Canadian Association of Sport Sciences, said players would do well to ditch cleats and wear suction cup shoes. In the study, wet surfaces of artificial turf produced injuries at a rate of 1.27 for every 1000 minutes of football. Normal grass produced only .78. On dry surfaces, the rate was 1.76 to .97.

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LOSS JUST REPORTED is death of the Whittier elm, the 300-year-old tree often described by John Greenleaf Whitter in his poetry. City officials at Haverhill, Mass., home of the elm, said the tree had suffered from Dutch elm disease for the past 15 years and had become increasingly fragile in recent months.

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CONSERVATION 70, INC., a Florida civic group reports they will ask that state's legislature for a package to set a deadline of mid-'73 for phasing out pesticide use in Florida waters. At the same time, they will sponsor legislation to eliminate noxious aquatic vegetation from all Florida waterways. They plan to seek 2.6 million dollars via gasoline taxes to do the man-sized aquatic weeding job. (Tsk, tsk—and without pesticides).

Lawn Weed Herbicide Bulletin Is Revised

A bulletin on herbicides used in lawn weed control has been revised by the United States Department of Agriculture. The 24-pager is now available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

In ordering, ask for Home and Garden Bulletin No. 123, "Lawn Weed Control With Herbicides." Cost is 15 cents.

Generally, the publication includes information on herbicides, how to treat weed infestations, preplanting lawn treatments, and precautions in herbicide use.

What's a Pesticide?

What are pesticides? This term is misused more often than it is used correctly. Speaking before many types of groups very few people can define the word "pesticide" and explain its meaning.

As used today the terms pesticide or pesticide chemicals are the same as an "economic poison" as defined under the USDA Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Pesticides, therefore, are defined as any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate any insects, rodents, nematodes, fungi, weeds, or other pests. It also includes substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant.

CHEMICAL	For the Control of:
1. Insecticides	insects (beetles, caterpillars, bees, flies, cockroaches, spiders, mites, ticks, etc., etc.). Broadly used insecticides also include: miticides, insect repellents, insect attractants, activators and mothproofers.
2. Invertebrate animal poisons and repellents (animals without backbones)	1. substances used for jellyfish control 2. shipworms attacking docks 3. barnacles and mollusks on piers and ship bottoms 4. snail and slug control 5. etc.
3. Rodenticides	rats, mice, moles, skunks, fish, bird and snake poisons and/or repellents. Fish poisons are commonly used in management operations, skunk poisons or repellents and controlling sea lamprey.
4. Fungicides	mildews, molds, slime, etc.
5. Nematocides	eelworms, etc.
6. Growth regulators	fruit set, speed up or reducing plant growth (not to include fertilizers).
7. Herbicides	weed killers
8. Defoliants	leaf drop materials
9. Desiccants	artificial drying agents
10. Fumigants	vapor producing (mothballs, etc.)