

trimmings

FACTS FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT is a new booklet that's chocked full of informal questions and answers. "What is the biggest hazards to water quality? Do farm fertilizers load our rivers with nitrate? What is the earth's insect population?" and 121 other questions are answered in this informative booklet. Published by the Potash Institute of North America, it is available in single or multiple copies. Twenty-five cents for single copies. Write to 1649 Tullie Circle NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30329.

FOREST PLANTING in the U.S. during the last fiscal year totalled 1,692,939 acres, up 93,000 acres from the year before. Leading states were Florida, Alabama, and Oregon.

JUGLONE is a chemical produced by oak and hickory trees that is reported to act as a repellent to the European elm bark beetle. Scientists at the University of Wisconsin are studying this chemical for the possibility of adding it to elm tissue to combat the beetle which carries Dutch Elm Disease. A water soluble derivative could be injected into vascular tissue or perhaps applied as a foliar spray.

THE COFFIN LID is all but closed on DDT. As is typical at funeral gatherings, good comments about the chemical's beneficial uses continue to float on the breeze. Off to one side the environmentalists are madly shoveling dirt into the grave. And as the cold January air rips through the cemetery of chemical heroes, mourners stop to contemplate on a world free of malaria, free of mosquitoes, gypsy moths and other crop and forest marauders. Perhaps this discarded victim of public opinion will now find rest.

SWITZERLAND via Bolens Division of FMC Corporation is the incentive to dealers who meet or surpass pre-established sales goals during the year. According to Don Birdsall, Bolens manager of advertising and sales promotion, the 8-day vacation for two will be taken in late summer of 1973.

LITTER BUGS are more costly than most taxpayers may think. It's been estimated that American dump more than 40 million tons of trash annual-

ly on our roads, beaches, parks and other public areas. If piled one foot high, that much litter would cover a highway between New York and San Francisco, or about 3,000 miles. During 1971, litter bugs cost more than \$21.5 million to clean up the 752.2 million acres of Federal parks, forests and lands.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION has begun a research effort to find ways to advise motorists of safe driving speeds during foggy weather conditions. A research study will be done by the Oregon State Highway Division under a 27-month, \$262,609 contract. Although only three percent of all accidents occur during fog, these accidents are more likely to result in multiple vehicle collisions, says the FHA. A recent study showed that two-thirds of all accidents involving nine or more vehicles in California occurred during fog.

CARL ROSE has a nose for detecting gas. As a consulting arborist from New Jersey, Carl noted a condition on a London planetree in the town of Kearney in late August that looked suspiciously like a gas leak in the soil under the street. He notified the utility company who had no previous knowledge of a leak. Sure enough, eight days later, after testing for gas, they ripped up part of the street and replaced three house services and part of the street main.

THATCH defined by the Turfgrass and Crop Terminology Committee of the American Society of Agronomy is: "a tightly intermingled layer of living and dead stems, leaves and roots of grass, which develops between the layer of green vegetation and the soil surface. According to Dr. Robert W. Miller, Ohio State University, thatch appears to hinder plant growth in many ways. These include tying up mineral elements applied on the surface, plant response to fertilization, increased incidence of disease, decreased effectiveness of fungicides and insecticides, inhibited water penetration and an overall loss of turf vitality.

DON'T RANT—PLANT. That's what Daniel P. O'Connor of Anaheim, California thinks people should do instead of complaining about the environment going to pot. And he practices what he preaches. With the help of Ken D. Mueller, an expert on from the University of California, Riverside, O'Connor is teaching about 20 of his neighbors to

grow better turfgrass, trees and bushes. He's now something of a "sub-agent" for Mueller when it comes to improving the environment. Kind of a "Green Industry Ambassador" to the public. Perhaps O'Connor's enthusiasm for green will start a revolution.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH OLD UTILITY POLES? Give them to Bill Murphy, a foreman on the property of the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Co. He not only has the professional touch of an arborist, but is gifted as a wood carver as well. In fact, he is the man who gave Green Rock, Ill. its only totem pole. He carved it from an assortment of tools, power saw and a good deal of Boy Scout imagination.

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Orthene Systemic Insecticide Under Production At Chevron

A new systemic insecticide that breaks down into harmless materials in the environment is being produced by the Ortho Division of Chevron Chemical Company.

Called Orthene, the insecticide is applied as a foliar spray that is rapidly taken up by the plant. Rain or water from sprinklers can't wash the material off the leaves once it has been allowed to dry.

Beneficial insects such as lady bugs and bees suffer little residual harm from Orthene. It is effective on such pests as aphids, leaf hoppers, webworms, tent caterpillars and gypsy moth.

The new material will be produced in a new manufacturing complex at Richmond, Calif. It is expected that the plant has the capacity to produce more than a million pounds of the material annually.