

trimmings

EARTH PLANTS AND MOON SOIL appear to do well together. In tests conducted by the University of South Alabama, plants grown in soil brought back by astronauts appeared to grow better and live longer than ordinary plants. Vernon Scholes, a biology professor who conducted the tests for NASA, reported that based on his experiments moon dust stimulates chlorophyll.

DIET OF WEEDS is another name for a new cookbook on the market called "The Wild Flavor." Written by Mrs. Marilyn Kluger, the book depicts a great variety of plants and weeds which can be used in cooking. Consider Sorrel Soup (takes a cup of sheep sorrel) or Cattail Pollen Flapjacks (1 cup cattail pollen sifted through a fine-meshed tea strainer) as new uses for problem weeds.

IF WE WERE TO RETURN to horses and get rid of all the automobiles city street cleaners would have as big a job as ever trying to keep streets clean. New York City was estimated to have 120,000 horses around the turn of the century. Sanitary engineers estimate that these horses contributed over 1300 tons of manure a day to the street environment. Contrast this to a situation of modern day where a horse might be substituted for each auto and truck in the U. S. The environmental contribution arising from this situation would produce a staggering 10 million tons of manure a day.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL points out that there are 10 items which no OSHA officer overlooks when he checks out a business. They are: 1. electrical wiring, loose connections, switch plates and covers; 2. fan guards; 3. floor conditions and poor housekeeping; 4. aisle markings and clear aisles; 5. electrical panels, which must be kept closed; 6. grounding of electrical systems; 7. limits of 30 pounds air pressure for cleaning purposes. 8. fire extinguishers; 9. exit signs and means of egress; 10. proper maintenance of OSHA records. If you are not in compliance with all of these, consider it an automatic violation subject to fine.

WORK is progressing on the restoration of the Joyce Kilmer home in New Brunswick, N. J. Kilmer, the poet who wrote "Trees," was born in the house which is to become a museum and headquarters of the New Jersey Arborists Association. The group has transplanted on the site a tree which experts believe is an offspring of the original oak which inspired Kilmer's poem.

SOCIAL SECURITY may be a good thing, but it is time to analyze how much of your pay goes to help support this program. Since 1937, the tax rate paid by employer and employee alike has risen from one percent on the first \$3,000 to 5.85 percent of the wages up to \$10,800. In 1974, the maximum amount of wages taxed for this program will increase to \$12,000. If you earned \$10,800 in 1937, you would have paid \$30 in social security taxes. If you earned \$10,000 or more during 1972, you paid \$468. This year the ante is up to \$632 for persons making \$10,800 or more. And next year it goes even higher!

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS are the hedge for continuing a practice which may be in question. The Environmental Protection Agency has now listed a code by which these statements are classified. Basically it consists of a two letter alpha code followed by a number. Here's what you'll find it under the "general nature of comments" section: LO, ER, EU, which translates to Lack of Objection, Environmental Reservations, and Environmentally Unsatisfactory. The numbers are 1, 2, or 3 which mean: adequate, insufficient information, or inadequate, in that order. So if you have a EU-3 code on your statement, it means that "EPA believes that the proposed action is unsatisfactory because of its potentially harmful effect on the environment . . . and that the Agency believes that the draft impact statement does not adequately assess the environmental impact of the proposed project or action, or that the statement inadequately analyzes reasonable available alternatives."

HOW FAST ARE WE consuming motor fuel? The Federal Highway Administration says that 105.6 billion gallons of fuel were taxed and consumed in the U. S. in 1972. Net state motor-fuel tax receipts amounted to \$7.59 billion. That amount was 7.7 percent higher than in 1971 the greatest annual increase in 17 years.

MEAT FOR KIDS but not adults may be coming as scientists continue to perfect soybeans as a potential protein source. That's the report from Dr. George L. Sutherland, director of research and development for the agricultural division of American Cyanamid Company. He also foresees the possible disappearance of many fresh fruits and vegetables from the dinner table. Sutherland cites the disappearing labor force in the labor-intensive crops, social decisions which restrict development and technology and increased competition between man and animals for protein as the factors influencing man's future diet.

OSHA has amended standards on powered industrial trucks, cranes, derricks and portable power tools. Exempt are vehicles intended primarily for over-the-road hauling. An "approved" industrial truck applies only to approvals for fire safety purposes for the intended use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. An industrial truck is now defined as "unattended" when the operator is more than 25 feet from the vehicle or cannot see it.

Further, OSHA has ruled that "only designated personnel shall be permitted to operate" a crane or derrick, rather than authorized and trained operators.

The standard requiring guards on portable power saws with blades two inches or greater in diameter was amended to exempt such saws used in cutting meat. Among other changes to power tools was a clarification of the operating switch or control requirements for various types of circular saws, chain saws, power drills, grinders and routers.

OUR MISTAKE

Last month we inadvertently left out a note to readers interested in obtaining a copy of the Turfgrass Insects chart. The chart appeared on the inside back cover. The O. M. Scott & Sons Company has made this full color drawing available to readers of WEEDS TREES AND TURF. For an 8½ x 11 inch color print of the chart, write to O. M. Scott & Sons Company, Marysville, Ohio 43040. There is no charge. JAS.