

trimmings

Promising alternatives for DDT are being tested by U.S. Forest Service scientists for future control of Tussock moth epidemics. So far three control materials have shown promise during research efforts and pilot projects over the past few years during the moth epidemic in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. These results were among key conclusions reached in a Forest Service, USDA report recently delivered to EPA. EPA granted approval to the Forest Service to spray nearly 430,000 acres of forests in the three states, using DDT to protect the forests from further damage. The DDT-treated areas resulted in a 98 percent average moth mortality. Forest Service chief, John R. McGuire, said the most promising materials evaluated appeared to be a chemical insecticide, carbaryl, and two biological agents, a nucleopolyhedrosis virus and a bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Motor-fuel consumption in the U. S. during 1974 is expected to show a decrease for the first time since 1943. Consumption is expected to be 110.7 billion gallons this year, a decrease of 3.2 percent below 1973 figures. Total consumption for each of the first six months of 1974 shows a decrease from the corresponding months of 1973. The estimate by the Federal Highway Administration is based on individual state reports.

Directing the destructive efforts of a moth called *Coleophora Parthneica* are a couple of University of California researchers. The moths, a natural enemy of the Russian thistle, were imported from Pakistan and Turkey for their ability to control the weed. The moth "glues" its eggs on weed leaves. Hatching larvae burrow into leaves, then into branches and stems, devouring the weed's inner tissues. The weed now costs the state of California millions of dollars to control and in agricultural losses.

Final stage of ICI United States, Inc., agricultural research network

was recently completed with the opening of their Champaign, Ill. development center. The 20-acre center evaluates developmental crop protection chemicals such as insecticides, fungicides, nematocides, plant growth regulators and herbicides, for use in the Midwest. Similar research is being carried out at their three other locations across the country.

Newly established EPA Office of Transportation and Land Use Policy has a new director. John O. Hiding, the new appointee, will be responsible for developing land use and transportation related regulations, and for providing technical assistance on these matters to EPA's regional offices and to state and local agencies.

Speaking of EPA expansion, there are now some 55,000 people directly employed in EPA-financed construction activity, and that by the middle of 1977 that number will more than double — to approximately 125,000, according to administrator Russell E. Train. Train also said, "There is simply no evidence that environmental requirements have had or will have any marked adverse impact upon jobs or existing productive capacity, especially since investments in environmental protection create new markets, new jobs and new profit opportunities." He made these remarks in his opening address at the one-day White House Conference on Domestic and Economic Affairs in Portland, Oregon.

A new USDA proposed amendment for administering the Plant Variety Protection Act would require publication of information by an applicant for protection of a newly developed plant variety that seed of the plant shall be sold "by variety name only as a class of certified seed." It would require showing the number of generations that the variety may be certified. Under present regulations, such information from pending applications cannot be published without the specific approval of the applicant. The Act offers protection against unauthorized exploitation by others of protected seed-

producing plant varieties. The Act has been in effect since late 1970.

Intravenous feeding has saved a local landmark from the ax. An eight-foot in diameter elm tree, which has stood on the campus of Virginia Tech since pre-Civil War days, was stricken with Dutch Elm Disease. Tech plant pathologist, R. Jay Stipes, directed the intra-vascular treatment which has bought further time for the historic tree.

An Aldrin and Dieldrin objective report has been published by the Council on Agricultural Science and Technology. The report summarizes facts as viewed by 16 agricultural scientists. For more information contact C. A. Black, Executive Vice-President, CAST, Agronomy Department, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50010.

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