

Carolina To Be Lucky In Matter Of Locusts

North Carolina will be lucky with its locusts this year. Only one of the smallest broods of the 13-year variety will appear. Dr. David L. Wray, curator of the insect collection of the N. C. State Department of Agriculture, has announced.

"Brood 20, as this year's race of insects is known, will appear in Wilkes and surrounding counties in late May, or early June. Its last appearance was in 1947 and follows last year's brood 19, which is perhaps the largest. 1961 will reveal an even larger brood emerging than in 1959," Dr. Wray said.

"Locusts are found only in the eastern part of the United States and generally east of the Mississippi River. There are 30 broods in all but North Carolina has only 10, three broods of the 13-year variety and seven of the 17-year kind.

"Although damage will not be particularly wide-spread, the major destruction occurs when the female lays her eggs. During the egg-laying process the female inserts the 'saw' into the bark of the

tender twigs on young trees, making a slit some two or three inches long. Into this slit she deposits long rows of eggs. The slitting of the bark causes the twig to die.

"Eggs of the locust hatch in six to seven weeks and the resulting nymphs fall to the ground. They burrow until they find roots to feed upon, sucking juices from the tree's system. They feed underground, about two feet deep, for 13 to 17 years depending upon the variety. In the spring of the year when they are due to emerge, the nearly grown nymphs move within two inches of the surface and await their 'magic night.' On this night, the nymphs leave the ground by the millions and crawl to any object where they attach themselves. They emerge from cases, becoming adults, and within a few hours are fully matured. By dawn they are ready to join with thousands of others in their familiar chorus. Within a week, mating occurs, the females lay their eggs and the cycle continues. The adults live four or five weeks after emergence.

"Broods have been larger in the past but the continual process of clearing lands has reduced their numbers. Brood 20 of the locust is quite localized in North Carolina, along with the neighboring states of western Virginia, eastern Tennessee, and farther south in northern Georgia."

For protection against the locusts, Dr. Wray suggests covering young trees with tobacco-cloth before the emergence period, and not planting orchards near larger and older growth in forests.

The insect does not appear regularly. Dr. Wray keeps records on those appearing in North Carolina and can predict the emergence of the various broods over the years. The cicada, or locust, resembles the "dry weather" fly or harvest fly except that the latter is smaller and has a reddish color, and never appears in such large numbers or makes as much noise as the locust.

Doctor Talk

By JOHN B. REMBERT, M.D.

The American Medical Association in an effort to protect the public against all hazardous chemicals used in the home and industry, has drafted and introduced a bill pertaining to such chemicals.

The average reader will ask why such a label law is needed. At the present time inadequate labeling of harmful chemicals has been a major handicap to a successful attack on accidental poisoning. Lack of information about hazardous ingredients in poisonings may enhance their gravity by complicating or delaying treatment.

Accidental poisoning is not an uncommon occurrence. The latest figures available show that 1,442 persons died from accidental overexposure to packaged chemicals in 1956. The number of non-fatal poisonings are estimated to be 100 to 150 times the number of fatalities. One-fourth of the deaths occurring in 1956 were in pre-school aged children.

The tragedy of these deaths by poisoning is alarming when one remembers that most of the 1,442 deaths in 1956 were preventable.

A hazardous substance law, as proposed, will not, of itself, prevent poisonings; but such a law, by increasing the care and precautions that persons take in handling the substance, will prevent some cases of injury and death, and will facilitate treatment.

The passage of such a law, combined with a program of informing the public of the hazards involved and ways of reducing these hazards, will reduce and prevent further needless poisonings.

All parents must become aware of this danger; the careless handling and storage of potentially harmful products in and around the home must be stopped.

If a child or adult in your home is accidentally poisoned, contact your doctor immediately—or take the individual to the nearest hospital for emergency treatment—and by all means carry the poison container with you. Knowing the hazardous chemicals aids medical personnel in instituting appropriate treatment immediately.

Mental health is being recognized today as a problem we can do something about. Almost any modern magazine you choose to read will carry several articles concerning this subject during a year's time. Information on this subject is available to all of us.

Not only this, but it is a subject freely discussed by people from all walks of life. It is no longer a subject covered with mystery and shame. We know that a weakness for certain forms of mental illness does run in some families, but more important than this we have learned that these weaknesses can be overcome by the kind of life a person leads.

One of the most important lessons a parent can teach a child is self-control. Without self-control, life will be a burden to the individual involved and to all the people who must come into daily contact with the individual. Lack of self-control, carried to the extreme, is nothing more than a form of mental illness.

Parents have a great responsibility raising children. Today, we recognize that this responsibility does not end with food, shelter, clothes and such material things. It includes helping your child adjust to the problems of life.

A very young child's problems are usually nil if they receive enough love and affection from their family. Often a problem will arise when a new brother or sister comes into a family where there was formerly only one child. Except in extreme cases, this can be handled by lavishing attention on the older child until he comes to love his younger sister or brother and adjusts to the new situation.

As a child gets older, he must be guided into unselfish habits, he must learn to play on a team and not feel that unless he is captain, he won't play. Help your child adjust to his shortcomings. Show him that although he may not be an outstanding football player, he may do very well in basketball. Tell him about the outstanding men in history who succeeded against all kinds of physical odds and mental shortcomings.

A child's play can be a good indication of his smartness, according to a new theory. Bright babies' play shows more ingenuity. During their second year precocious tots

use a great deal of imagination. Backward children seldom vary their play. As they grow older the bright children seem to care less about competitive games and go in for card and guessing games.

Adolescence can be one of the happiest times of life, or it can be one of the most trying. A great deal depends on the kind of understanding and help the young person gets in his home.

Those shy adolescents need help. Sometimes the help they need is a bit more encouragement at home. Encouragement to be themselves—not nagging to make them better than they are.

A boy or girl who can be accepted for what he or she is by parents, and loved and respected as is, is a whole lot more likely to feel the self-confidence needed to meet adequately the demands of the outside world than if constantly berated for whatever quality the parents would like to see improved.

Aside from parents' attitude toward a teen-ager who is having problems a few specific things need to be given with the spirit of love. For example, a girl who is overly conscious of not being very good-looking would benefit by a course of beauty treatments.

Most cities have beauty courses, where the students are taught how best to use cosmetics, what kind of hair styling will do the most for them, and the like. The teachers will suggest clothes styles that bring out all the good features of a not-too-good figure.

A girl can profit a lot from such knowledge, especially if mother takes an interest and asks her daughter to pass on to her her own benefit what the girl learns.

FARM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: What percentage of poultry meats coming under compulsory federal inspection was condemned in 1959, the first year of the inspection?

Answer: Only 1.7 per cent. While the percentage was small it did amount to about a \$13 million loss for the nation's poultry producers.

Question: How much of the woodland in North Carolina is privately owned?

Answer: About 92 per cent. There are about 19 million acres of forest in North Carolina. Of this amount, 15 million acres are held by 222,000 farmers and 43,000 other small woodland owners. Forest industries own about 2.6 million acres. The remaining 1.4 million acres are under federal, state or local control.

Question: How does hybrid corn acreage in North Carolina compare with that in other Southern states?

Answer: Very well. Last year 85.5 per cent of the corn acreage in North Carolina was planted in hybrids. Only one other Southern state was higher. That state was Florida with 80 per cent. Other states ranged from 64.5 to 84 per cent.

Question: I know it is difficult to keep laying houses dry. But do laying hens actually give off much moisture?

Answer: Yes. One hundred hens laying at a rate of 60 per cent give off at least 20 quarts of water every 24 hours. Some of the moisture is in the droppings; the remainder is in the form of moisture vapor expired by the birds.


Question: Does second generation hybrid corn make good seed?

Answer: No. Generally speaking, second generation hybrid produces 20 to 30 per cent less corn than first generation hybrid. This is because the second generation hybrid reverts to the original corn crossed to make the hybrid.

Question: What has been the trend in expenditures for food in the United States?

Answer: Total expenditures for food have risen along with consumer income, though at a slower rate. Food expenditures as a percentage of income have decreased from 26.9 per cent in 1957 to an estimated 20.8 per cent in 1959. A bag of food that cost the average worker six hours labor in 1933 costs him only three and four-fifths hours of labor today.

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