

Challenging Nature Control Of Plant Life

Chemicals Used To Regulate Growth

their attention toward helping the military. As a result of that help, the U. S. Army today is armed with chemical powders and sprays that can be used in time of war to kill all plants in an enemy country. The Army has clamped an airtight secrecy on the subject and won't even talk about it.

Many of the "inhibiting" and "stimulating" growth regulators have practical, peace-time use. Take 2,4-d. It has been used successfully to kill broad-leaved weeds in fields of narrow-leaved food plants, such as sugar cane, rice, corn, wheat and rye. But it's dangerous to use unless precautions are taken. It kills all broad-leaved plants, crop or weed.

Then there is naphthaleneacetic acid. It has been used since 1939 to keep apples from dropping from trees before they ripen. And, today it is in wide use in orchards in the Pacific Northwest.

Must Learn "How"

Agriculture scientists are trying to refine these regulators and to concoct new and better ones. They believe the first step is to learn how they work.

"We still don't know what the mechanism is," said Dr. George Irving, assistant chief of agricultural chemistry. "We must learn what happens between the time the chemical is sprayed and the result is seen in the growing plant."

Atomic power may solve the problem by producing large quantities of radioactive atoms at Oak Ridge, Tenn. The chemists took radioactive iodine atoms and worked them into the molecules of the plant regulators. The "built-in" radioactivity put a "mark" on the chemical regulator. Standing by with Geiger counters, the chemists now are "tracing" the regulators, "watching" them go to work on plants.

DIAPERS TO AFRICA

ANDERSON, S. C. (UP)—An Anderson firm is now supplying diaper service in darkest Africa. Five hundred dozen diapers were shipped to a South African wholesale house from McGee and Cleckley, local exporting firm which also is solving three-cornered problems for customers in Ecuador, Norway and Sweden.

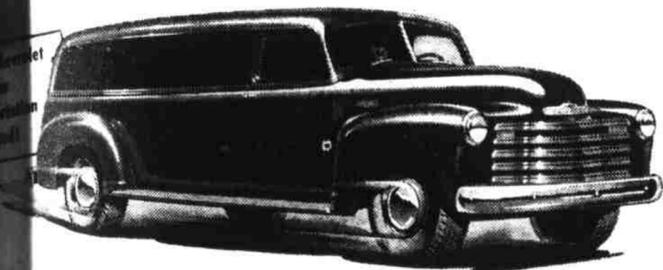
With the exception of California, the Philippines yields more gold annually than any state in the union as well as Alaska.

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'Black Widow' Can Fool Doctors

By FRANK CAREY
 Associated Press Science Reporter

WASHINGTON—Surgeons have sometimes been fooled by the bite of the Black Widow spider. The excruciating pain in the abdomen produced by the bite of the venomous "widow" has at times been mistaken for the pain of some organic ailment, says Lieut. (JG) Dallas E. Billman in the Naval Medical Bulletin.

Some victims of the Black Widow are subjected to needless operations, he says, as a result of diagnosis of acute appendicitis or rupture.

"The excruciating abdominal pain renders the patient willing to submit to any surgical procedure which he believes will relieve his pain," Dr. Billman adds.

He recommends that doctors always consider the possibility of "Black Widow" bite in case of acute abdominal pain, and that close attention be paid to possible heart effects in proven cases of such bites.

"More of these cases will probably be encountered in the future with greater frequency," he predicts, citing a report of a group of doctors, made in 1936, which said the Black Widow is greatly increasing in number and is invading large cities.

Ex-Pupils To Have Voice In Running High School

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (UP)—Champaign high school officials are giving "old grads" a say-so in planning the curriculum of their alma mater.

Graduates in all walks of life have been asked, by questionnaire, to tell what high school courses were valuable to them and what courses proved of little benefit.

School officials plan to tabulate the information, revamp the present course of study and do a "better job" of teaching future pupils.

OLD-TIME JITNEY DRIVER RECALLS CROWDED DAYS

SEATTLE (UP)—Frank Cross has been a cab driver in Seattle for 38 years and remembers the old 5-cent days when a jitney driver could crowd 12 to 14 riders aboard a Model T Ford and nobody complained.

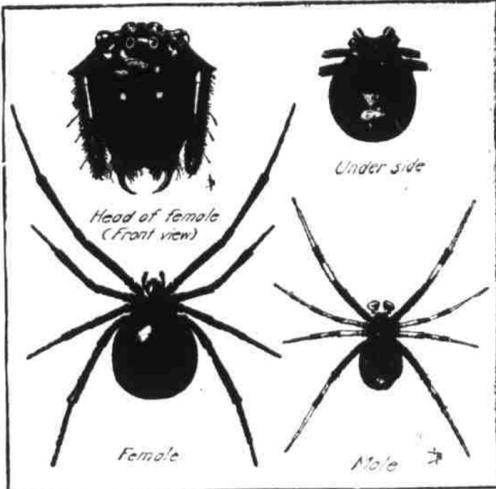
Cross said you could "pile 'em in the front seat, two deep and three wide, jostle and crowd 'em and step on their feet."

"Nobody cared, they thought it was sport," Cross said.

"But it's different these days. They sit in the back—alone and untrod—and complain about your driving. People weren't nervous in the old days."

CRAWFISH UP A TREE

ELBERTON, Ga. (UP)—W. H. Yeager found a crawfish stranded on a peach tree six feet above the ground after a hard rain. Yeager said he doesn't know whether the creature crawled up or was rained down.



Dr. Billman says research shows that the venom of the female is 15 times as potent as the venom of the rattlesnake.

The female spiders destroy the smaller males soon after mating.

Male "Black Widows" can bite, but their bite is not dangerous.

The "Black Widow" also is called the "hour-glass spider," from a marking shaped like an hour-glass on their bellies.

Capital Letters

(Continued From Page Two)

He said "No" and thus refused to give the ambitious Republicans more fuel for the fire that they are now in the process of building under the Democratic Party in North Carolina.

SERVING Haddock

One and one-half pounds of haddock fillets are needed to serve five people. If they are to be broiled they may be dusted with flour and basted with butter or fortified margarine during the broiling. If they are not to be served with a sauce they should be garnished with a wedge of lemon.

ODD JOB MAN PRODUCES CASH ON DEMAND

INDIANAPOLIS (UP)—Police were called to settle a tenant-landlord dispute over \$150.

"How much cash do you have with you now?" a patrolman asked the tenant, Edgar Martin, 39-year-old handyman.

"About \$500," was the reply.

"Let's see," demanded the skeptical cop.

"From the two pairs of pants he was wearing, Martin pulled a bill-fold, four money bags and assorted cash.

A count revealed nine \$50 bills, 31 \$20 bills, 126 \$10's and hundreds of \$1 bills, each folded separately.

The total: \$2,984—Martin's savings from 20 years of odd-job work.

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Washington Letter

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gignan, east of Cannes . . .

Also at Florence and Anzio, Italy, at Tunis, North Africa, and in the Philippines at Manila.

The commission is responsible only for the construction and maintenance of cemeteries in foreign countries, but General North pointed out that four others on American territory are being contemplated—in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Alaska and Guam.

Cemeteries in the remote Pacific islands, he says, have been vacated or are being vacated.

"We feel," he says, "that there are places in the world that are going down in history with Gettysburg and Antietam, such as Tarawa, Iwo Jima and Okinawa."

"On the other hand, there is no use building a monument if nobody is going to see it. Those places are relatively inaccessible and we feel they should be marked in some way that is simple, that does not invite vandalism and does not require maintenance."

The commission secretary said the number of dead to be buried overseas had not yet been determined.

"Originally we estimated 25 per cent, now we are estimating 50 per cent," he says. "This means three and three-fourths times as many graves as for World War I."

The Battle Monuments Commission is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of eight World War I American military cemeteries in Europe, containing the graves of 30,908 American dead of that war.

It operates and maintains the Mexico City American National Cemetery which contains the graves of some 1,500 Americans who died in the 1847 Mexican War.

One of the greatest revolutions in farming methods in the last decade is the tractor-drawn hay-baler. Approximately 32 per cent of last year's hay crop was baled in the field.

Floral Tribute



FILM AND STAGE Actress June Lockhart poses with a bunch of sweet peas, named after her, at the International Flower Show in New York. The new sweet pea is the result of ten years of experimentation and development. (International)

Rambling

(Continued from Page Two)

the cross word puzzle, cannot understand its lure. But ask a bookkeeper what is the most exciting thing about her work and she will tell you that it's getting a trial balance. There you are; there's the answer. It's that uncertainty that forces you to make "ends meet". To take two extremes and make them come together to form a complete result. In other words, it's the gambling instinct that is part of all of us.

Having had a sea captain for a grandfather, we grew up under traditional "signs of weather". They laughed at us the other day when clouds hung low and rain was pelting down, and we predicted that it would clear up within an hour or so . . . because smoke was going straight up. Well, within an hour the struggling sun was warming up our sodden spirits . . . it might have been pure luck but it helped us out.

THIEVES TAKE IT EASY

REXBURG, Ida. (UP)—Thieves who broke into Woody's Drive Inn took time out to fix themselves two hamburgers on the electric grill and dish up a couple of milk shakes. When they got through with eating, they took \$12 from the cash register, picked up \$25 of merchandise and left.

A dollar today buys 15 times as much light as it did 20 years ago, the lighting industry claims.

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