

Simple Method of Treating Fence Posts by Home Owners Devised

WASHINGTON — (USDA) — Home owner can treat their own fence posts against decay and termites by a simple soaking process developed by the Forest

Products Laboratory of the Forest Service, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

By standing the round green posts first in a water solution of copper sulfate and then a water solution of sodium chromate, the two chemicals diffuse into the post and combine to form copper chromate. This combination is toxic to fungi and insects, practically insoluble in water, and will not leach from wood placed in a damp soil.

One of 100 Decayed

Of 100 pine posts thus treated and set in 1942 in Mississippi only one has decayed. This is a region of high decay and termite hazard where the average life of untreated pine posts is about three years. The average life of hardwood posts also has been extended considerably by this treatment. The method shows promise of wide application for preservation

CHICAGO HOGS AVG. \$15.15

Further declines were shown in the Chicago hog market this week where Monday's average was \$15.15 with a ton on a small lot at \$17.25. Further declines Tuesday and Wednesday moved prices even lower. This was the lowest in 39 days, a decline of \$1.95 or 11 per cent in the month.

tion of wood for farm use

Equipment needed to carry out this treatment is commonly found in most homes: A scale to weigh the chemicals or a 1-pound coffee can, a 10-quart pail, and two barrels, one of which must be wooden or concrete. The 25 pounds of copper sulfate crystals and 25 pounds of sodium chromate powder needed usually can be ordered through a local hardware store. If not, the Laboratory at Madison, Wis., has a partial list of companies handling the chemicals.

50 Posts At A Time

The Forest Products Laboratory recommends that no less than 50 posts be treated at a time. Posts should be cut six inches longer than needed and treated as soon after cutting as possible. They should be peeled just before they are put in the copper sulfate solution.

Copper sulfate is corrosive so must not be mixed in an iron container. To 24 gallons of water add 18 pounds or about 7 coffee cans of copper sulfate crystals. Stir until they dissolve. Less stirring is needed if they are added to the water the day before the solution is to be used. Cut off six inches from the large end of each post and stand in the solution cut end down for two days. The area of the post which will be in the ground should be surrounded by the liquid. To prepare extra solution add about 2-3 coffee cans of copper sulfate crystals to a 10-quart pail of water.

Best To Store Posts

The posts are then transferred to the second solution made by slowly stirring 18 pounds or about 6 coffee cans full of powdered sodium chromate into 26 gallons of water. This chemical dissolves readily. Keep the posts in this solution one day large end down and one day top end down. If additional solution is needed, add 2-3 coffee cans of sodium chromate powder to the pail of water.

Posts can be used at once, but it is better to pile them close together for several weeks. This rest period helps distribute the chemicals more evenly through the posts. If they are to be used soon, it is advisable to rinse them.

The solutions should be fortified before the treating of each new set of posts. To the copper sulfate mixture add enough water to bring it to its original level and 3 pounds or 1 heaping coffee can of the crystals. For the sodium chromate solution add water to bring it to its original level and add 3 pounds or 1 level coffee can of chemical.

The chemical solutions are harmful if taken internally, so children and animals should be kept away from them. People handling the posts during the

treatment process should wear rubber gloves to avoid possible irritations. When the treating process is complete, the chemicals should be dumped into a hole some distance away from wells or livestock ponds. After they have seeped away, the holes should be filled with dirt.

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MAKE CLAY

Make clay for your children to play with from 1 cup flour, ½ cup salt, and 1 teaspoon powdered alum mixed with about 1-3 cup water. Keep in a covered container. Clay will keep about two weeks. Marguerite L. Duvall, Penn State extension, family life specialist, reports.

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