

## USDA Warns Tourists Plant Importation Is Forbidden

Travelers returning from foreign countries should not attempt to bring into the United States plants, bulbs, fruits, meats or any of a wide assortment of other prohibited agricultural products the U. S. Department of Agriculture said today.

Such products may be confiscated and destroyed under strict Federal import regulations.

Imports of agricultural products are regulated to prevent possible introduction into the United States of destructive disease-producing agents and insect pests.

Last year more than 21 million pieces of incoming tourist luggage were examined, from which was taken 63 percent of all plant materials intercepted for violation of USDA plant quarantine regulations. The remainder were found in quarters and stores of vessels and other conveyances, cargo and mail.

Inspectors found that an average of one in every 66 pieces of incoming luggage contained contraband plant material.

Although many travelers carrying meat are unaware of import restrictions, ARS inspectors report that some use ingenious methods in trying to smuggle meat into the United States. Some travelers carried meat in cans of olive oil, another wrap-

ped it in corn husks, and another concealed meat in pastry.

In New York recently two travelers from Europe assured inspectors that four oranges in a suitcase were the only agricultural articles they carried. Careful inspection, however, turned up prickly pears, grape cuttings, tangerines, oranges, lemons, 7 ears of corn, a ham, 5 lbs. of sausage, 2 lbs. of fava beans, and fig, citrus, and loquat plants in soil. Examination showed these products contained nematodes, an unidentified plant disease and an insect larva.

Private importation of agricultural products is possible under a permit, ARS officials point out. Anyone planning to import unprocessed foods, plants, seeds, or animal products for special purposes should obtain a permit before leaving the United States, from the Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Good management can largely prevent pregnancy disease in ewes, university veterinarians say. Ewes should get plenty of exercise, and during the last six weeks of pregnancy should receive enough grain to cause a slight but steady increase in weight.

## Survey Shows Crop Losses To Corn Borers

European corn borers last year destroyed nearly 68 million bushels of corn grown for grain utilization, valued at almost \$72 million, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported today.

The loss, amounting to 1.7 percent of the total crop, is based upon estimates compiled by Federal and State workers in 18 States in which the major part of the U. S. corn crop is produced each year. The total quantity lost is the smallest since '52.

Based on counties or districts surveyed in the fall of 1959, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois suffered the severest losses.

Estimates are based on 1959 fall surveys of borer populations conducted by State entomological workers.

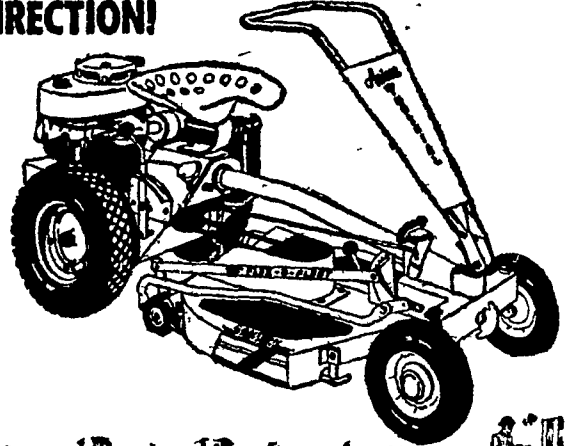
The European corn borer, one of our costliest insect pests, was accidentally imported into the United States probably on broomcorn, more than 40 years ago and now infests most of the corn-growing areas. The borer not only cuts crop yields but also lowers crop quality, increases production and harvesting costs, and requires large outlays for control materials and equipment.

The loss estimate in Pennsylvania for the year was one million, 166 thousand dollars based on an estimated loss of 1,014,000 bushels of grain at \$1.15 per bushel. Total value of the state production on an estimated 64,418,000 bushels was \$74,081,000. Dollar values are based on average prices received by farmers last year.

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