

## New Growth Regulators Provide Major Breakthrough In Research

Wouldn't it be great if farmers could pick the dates for harvesting their crops? Instead of harvesting corn in the fall when prices are at rock bottom, why not wait until March when prices are better? Or why not harvest in September when the weather is nice? All of this and more may be practical in the not too distant future. The complete answer may be slow in coming but agricultural researchers have made a basic breakthrough that may point the way. They have found a "switch" to turn plant growth off and on at will.

They feel that this discovery may lead to results even more dramatic than those credited to chemical fertilizers, hybrid seed, corn, and pesticides. By regulating plant growth crops could be harvested almost on command. Corn could be harvested in July, fresh strawberries in December and lettuce in March. In addition to the economic advantages to farmers, think of the consumer advantages involved. Fresh vegetables throughout the year could be the rule rather than the exception.

U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists working at the Beltsville, Md. Research Center say the amount of light that a particular plant receives determines plant growth. This pigment, which is part of a phytochrome

## PFA Stresses Dislike For Rice And Wheat Bills

Both consumers and farmers would be hurt by the bread and rice tax bill recently introduced in Congress by the Administration, according to Gerald Biggs, Pres. of the Penna. Farmers' Association.

Under the proposed wheat certificate plan, U. S. consumers would pay twice as much for American wheat as foreign buyers. The plan also gives the Secretary of Agriculture discretion to use government surplus stocks to impose price ceilings on market prices for farmers.

Wheat for domestic food use would be supported at rates as high as \$2.50 per bushel through a \$1.25 loan and a requirement that processors buy a \$1.25 certificate for every bushel going into this utilization. U. S. wheat sold to foreign buyers, including Communist countries, would go for \$1.25 per bushel. The farmer would get \$2.50 for only that part of his production allocated to domestic use.

A similar certificate plan for rice would raise the cost to consumers from 5 to 7 cents a pound, Biggs said.

It is estimated by the Administration that the wheat and rice plan would raise consumers' prices by \$300 million.

"Consumers should not be misled into accepting the proposed higher bread tax and new rice tax because they think they are doing farmers a favor," Biggs said.

"Wheat producers voted down a similar program in a nationwide referendum in 1963."

molecule, activates the molecule and causes plant growth. The scientists have succeeded in separating the pigment from the rest of the molecule. This in itself is a major scientific breakthrough.

Scientists agree that they have barely scratched the surface. Fundamental work is underway at Harvard, Cal-Tech and in some commercial companies. One researcher, Dr. R. P. Upchurch, of North Carolina State, says public agencies and commercial firms will have to team up to get this dramatic research into high gear.

Despite the relatively small amount of research findings in the field of growth regulators, there are a number of growth regulating chemi-

cals already in use. Some were discovered accidentally, some are byproducts of other agricultural research.

Growth regulators are now being used to thin apples, cause pineapples to set fruit, shorten stems of chrysanthemums and reduce water loss in plants.

Perhaps the most widely discussed inhibitor is a substance called MH-30. So far its use has been limited to reducing tobacco suckering, but there may be uses by potato and onion growers in preventing premature sprouting.

Floriculturists say MH-30 can be used to retard terminal growth of many flowering plants and improve flower production. It may also increase the sugar level in sugarcane and delay citrus and peach trees from budding until the danger of frost passes.

Looking to more immedi-

## Sorghum Alnum Labeled Noxious Weed In Penna.

The State Agriculture Department has warned farmers not to buy Sorghum Alnum seed that may be offered to them as suitable for pasture or silage crops.

"Under the state seed law, it is classified as a noxious weed," said Henry F. Nixon, director of the department's Bureau of Plant Industry. "The sale of Sorghum Alnum is illegal in Pennsylvania."

Nixon explained that Sorghum Alnum is similar to Johnson grass that was banned in Pennsylvania in 1959 as a noxious weed. Johnson grass spreads rapidly through seed and underground runners, and there is no effective method to control or eradicate it, Nixon said.

Restrictions against Johnson grass provide that "crosses with other grasses, and any other grasses which produce seed which are not readily distinguished from Johnson grass" also are classified as noxious weeds. Sorghum Alnum is a cross with Johnson grass, according to Wendell P. Ditmer, bureau botanist.

Sorghum Alnum is not to be confused, he said, with ordinary or hybrid sorghums that have been developed specifically for pasture and silage

# Performance Is The Key To Low Costs!!

One of our customers has been feeding our Early Bird 301 mash to 700 molted leghorns since last August. These birds peaked at a little over 77% and are holding amazingly well. He also has been feeding 2,700 young leghorns which he housed in September on another brand feed in crumbles.

Our customer took time to figure his feed consumption.

The 700 molted birds on Early Bird 301 mash since August, 1964, averaged a feed consumption of 22.2 pounds per 100 birds per day. His younger birds on the other feed, since they reached the 50% production level, consumed 26.1 pounds per hundred birds per day of this feed.

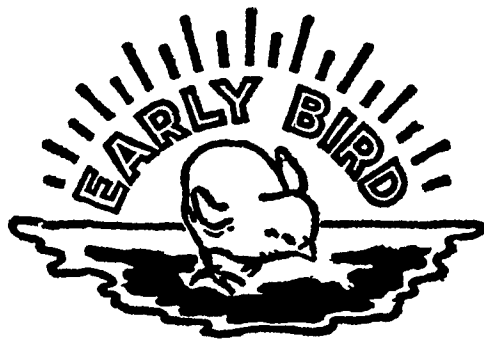
The result of this record keeping is that the customer asked us to serve his entire flock as of last week.

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