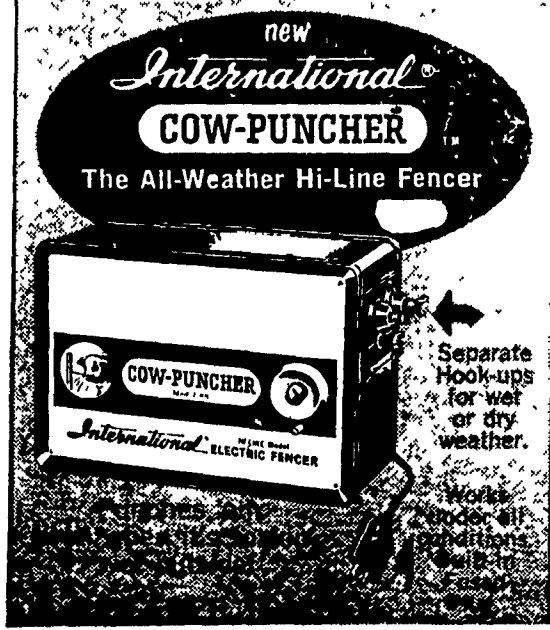


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## Winter Damage To Ornamentals

Many homeowners in the area are beginning to notice that some of their plants do not look as nice as they did last summer or fall. Some of the things they are noticing are yellow or dead tips on evergreen branches, especially on yews; boxwood plants that are bronzed or bleached yellow; burned leaf margins or scattered dead spots on evergreen leaves; cracked stems and dried-out buds, especially azalea flower buds; and plants that have been killed back to the ground.

All of these things are good indications that winter damage has occurred on the plants.

This winter damage may have one or more causes. Many of the affected plants were in a state of poor vigor from the effects of poor cultural conditions, prolonged drought or failure to become sufficiently dormant before the onset of winter.

While all plants are dormant in the winter, they are still alive, and loss of water from leaves continues. Rapid fluctuations in temperature plus drying winds and full sunlight can result in the loss of water from plants faster than it can be

replaced from the roots. This results in the drying out and death of plant parts. Ice and heavy snow loads also cause mechanical injuries such as cracking and splitting. Very low temperatures can also "freeze out" tender or marginal plants.

Where winter damage is severe, the dead plant portions should be removed and new growth encouraged by good cultural practices. Plants with bronzed or slightly burned leaves will usually put out new green leaves to replace the unsightly ones. Dead flower buds will not be replaced, however, until the next season.

### Gray Blight of Rhododendron

Rhododendrons with winter-damaged leaves are beginning to show signs of gray blight colonization. Gray blight is caused by a fungus that is a secondary parasite (*Pestalotia macrotricha*). Leaves must be damaged for infection to occur. A gray-white area of fungal

growth develops around the margins of the damaged leaf area. Whole leaves can be destroyed if this fungus becomes well-established.

Badly-injected or damaged leaves should be removed and burned.

Ferbam or maneb fungicides can be applied at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. Several applications may be necessary.

If gray blight is an annual problem, steps should be taken to eliminate damage to the leaves during the winter.

### Have You Heard?

(Continued from Page 11) con is evenly browned, remove strips from the fry pan and drain on absorbent paper. You don't need to pour oil fat during cooking.

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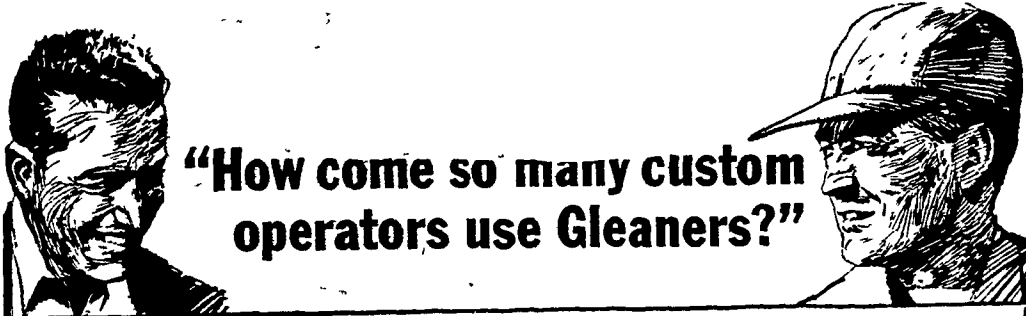
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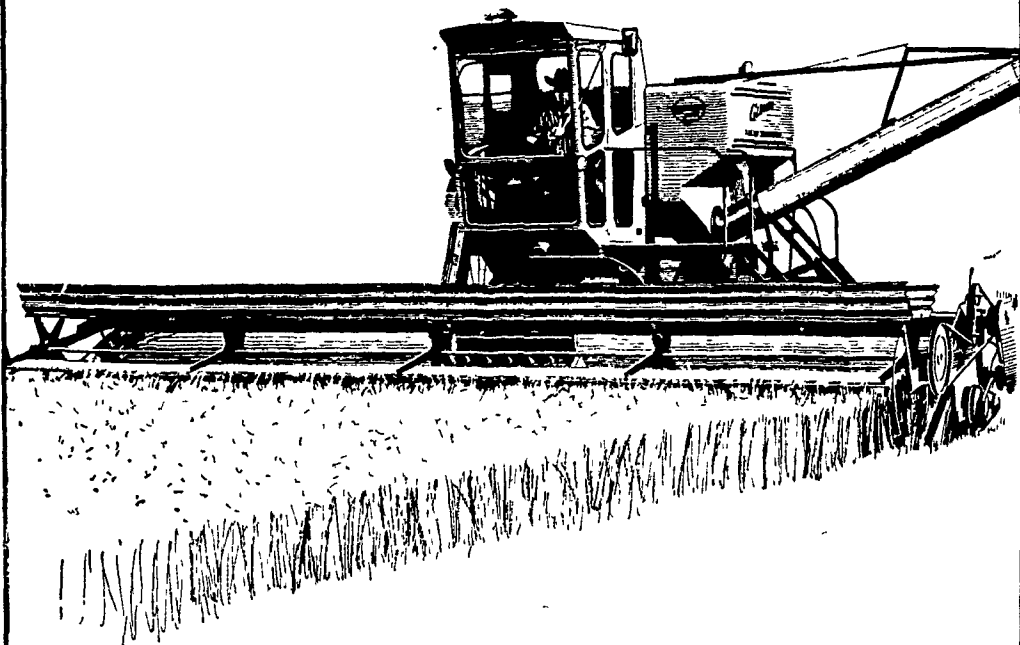
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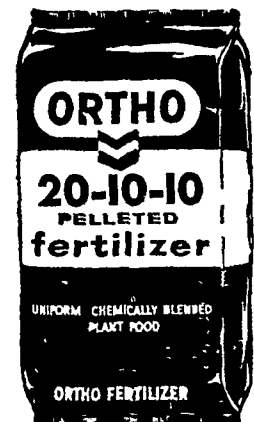
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