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**Soil Absorbs Phosphorus
Readily, Renovates Water**

University Park — Fine-textured soils have the ability to adsorb or hold onto more phosphorus from sewage effluent than would be added in 100 years if two inches of effluent were applied weekly. This was announced recently by Dr. Louis T. Kardos of The Pennsylvania State University during annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy in New Orleans, La.

Dr. Kardos said the adsorptive or holding capacity of finely divided inorganic clay particles in the upper 5 feet of fine-textured Hagerstown soil could hold onto 20,000 pounds of phosphorus at one experimental site at Penn State.

This adsorptive or holding capacity of these clay particles becomes a safety valve in renovating sewage effluent, he explained. While plant roots become a "living filter" in taking up as much as 39 per cent of the phosphorus in sewage effluent, the clay particles hold

onto virtually all the rest of the phosphorus.

The Penn State research has found that water and plant nutrients from municipal sewage treatment plants, which cause pollution problems when fed into streams or lakes, can be utilized in small or medium sized communities by irrigating nearby farm and forest land with the chlorinated effluent.

The experiments determined that only 129 acres of land would be needed to utilize the one million gallons of waste water produced daily in a community of 10,000 persons. This would be applied with an irrigation system putting on two inches of effluent weekly.

Dr. Kardos and associates believe such use of effluent may become a hidden resource for communities. The renovated water trickles down to the ground water reservoir and thence to wells, springs, and streams. Such water easily

County FFA
(Continued from Page 1)

Paul Eckman, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Eckman, Strasburg R1, was elected by the present County officers and will be installed at the January meeting. The new president-elect has corn, tobacco, sheep, fattening hogs, 3 dairy animals and 4 sows as projects. He is interested in Forestry, and has planted 1000 trees on his family's farm. He succeeds Linford Martin, East Earl R1. Garden Spot High School as the County Chapter head.

Other officers are: Lester Bowman, vice president, Garden Spot; Paul Clark, secretary, Pequea Valley; Jeff Pfautz, treasurer, Ephrata; Burnell Buchen, reporter, Manheim; Ken Weaver, sentinel, Warwick; Thomas Aaron, chaplain, Solanco; Carl Erb, corresponding secretary, Penn Manor; Michael Baum, parliamentarian, Elizabethtown

meets standards for potable water as set by the U.S. Public Health Service.

In four years of drought at State College, hay yields increased by 2 to 3 tons per acre where 1 or 2 inches of waste water were applied weekly. Corn yields increased by 30 to 50 bushels per acre in conventional rows 38 inches apart. Such benefits could help to pay costs of installing an irrigation system.

Since any effluent disposal system must operate throughout the year, the system in northern climates must rely more on the adsorptive capacity of the soil than on the "living filter" take-up of plant nutrients.

Forested areas fit into the system by providing better winter infiltration conditions than cropland and also larger phosphorus adsorptive capacities under the acid conditions associated with forest soils.

Dr. Kardos has been associated with the sewage effluent experiments at Penn State since they were begun in 1962. Recently he was appointed coordinator of the Waste Water Renovation and Conservation Research Project at the University.

It's the fellow who arrives an hour late who wants to talk when everybody else is ready to adjourn.

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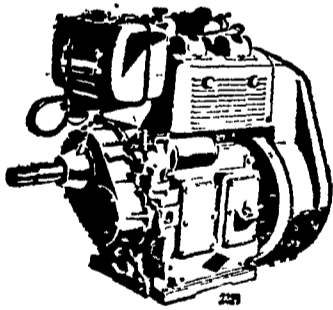
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