

Method Developed For Studying Plant Life After Treatment

A University of Maryland researcher has developed a method for determining how much "life" is left in plant tissue after treatment with herbicide.

Dr. Gordon Burt, University of Maryland agronomist, reported on his experiments at the annual meeting of the Northeast Weed Control Conference here this week.

Dr. Burt treated Johnsongrass rhizomes (underground root-stocks) with the chemical dalapon and then immersed them in a solution of triphenyl tetrazolium chloride (TTC).

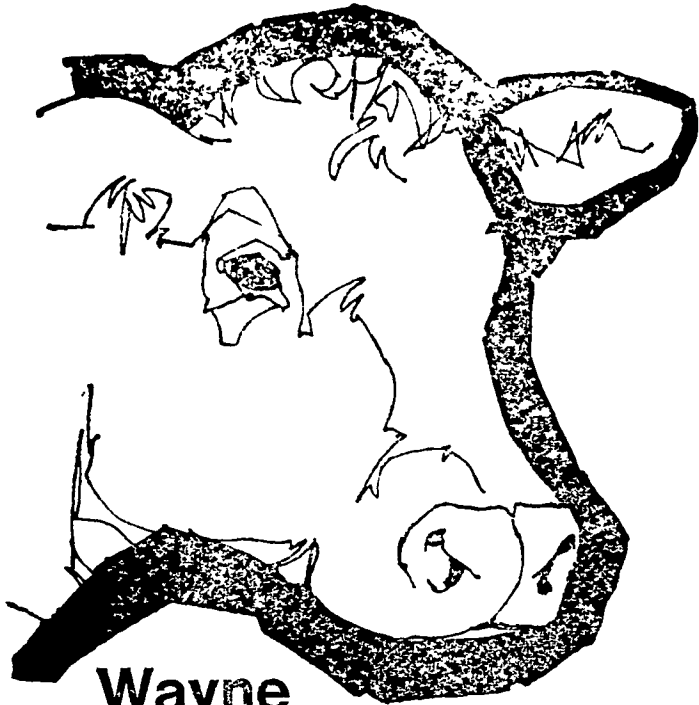
The solution of TTC is colorless but turns bright red in the

presence of living plant tissues. By measuring the density of the color — or the amount of color change — Dr. Burt could determine how much of the Johnsongrass was killed by the treatment with dalapon.

Dr. Burt also found that large doses of dalapon increased the frost hardiness of the rhizomes, but decreased the viability when just enough dalapon was used to speed up activity within the rhizomes.

He believes this technique will be a valuable tool in studying the interaction of chemicals and environmental conditions on herbicidal activity.

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New Dry Whole Milk Tested

Dairy Fresh, new dry whole milk, could become an additional commercial outlet for milk based on homemakers' favorable responses to the product in a recent market test conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Most consumers who tried the product in a USDA test considered Dairy Fresh a fine supplement to fresh milk or for special uses such as picnics, emergencies, and the like. Some three-fourths of the purchasers told researchers they expected to repurchase Dairy Fresh.

USDA's Economic Research Service placed and demonstrated the vacuum foam dry whole milk in 9 supermarkets in the Lancaster, Pa., area. Later, ERS sampled users on why they bought Dairy Fresh, how they used it, and what they thought about the product from USDA's Eastern Utilization and Development Laboratory.

The report, published today, states many purchasers said Dairy Fresh tasted as good as fresh whole milk and they could not tell the difference. Most of the homemakers gave good marks to Dairy Fresh for taste, wholesomeness and nutritious value, cost and richness. The report also notes the product has a relatively long shelf life of at least a year, when properly refrigerated (40 degrees F).

Sales of Dairy Fresh did not in any way affect sales of fresh whole milk, although it sold for 8 cents less — 2 cans (total half-gallon equivalent) for 51 cents to 59 cents for a half-gallon of whole fresh milk.

In the test period, despite limited advertising, consumer acceptance was high with nearly 2,000 cans (quart equivalent) sold during the first week of the 12-week trial. The new product was used in about 1,000 homes.

Property owners with just a few fruit trees might be getting ready to do some pruning on their trees. We are told that late Winter or early Spring (after the coldest part of the Winter is over) is the best time to prune fruit trees. In most cases the tree should be opened up in order to admit sunlight to all branches, this will improve the color of the fruit. Also, by thinning out some of the branches the size of the fruit on the remaining branches will be larger because of the better water and food supplies. Commercial fruit producers will be pruning most of the Winter months in order to make use of labor, and to get the work done before warm weather arrives.

Try A Classified — It Pays

Octoraro Young Farmer Meeting

A new young farmer organization is being formed in the Octoraro High School District in Chester County and they have a dinner meeting planned for Tuesday, February 10, starting at 6:45 p.m. at the Atglen Fire Hall. A slide presentation will be given on young farmer activities throughout Pennsylvania and Robert Kilgore, from the Red Lion Chapter in York County will be the speaker.

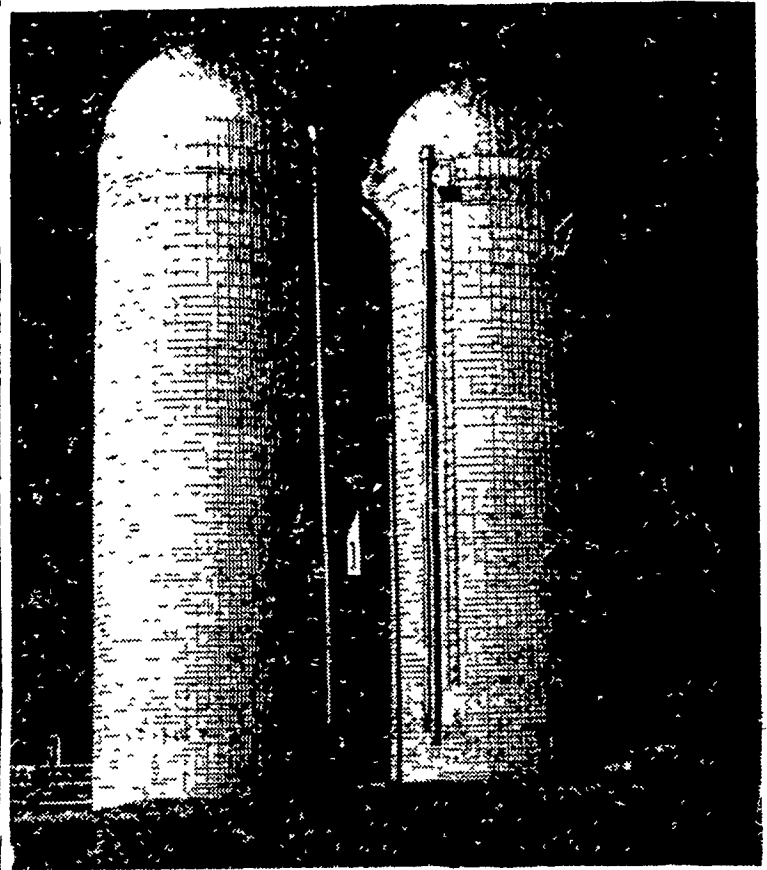
Anyone interested is invited to

attend and Ivan Stauffer, Voc-Ag teacher at Octoraro High School is the contact person.



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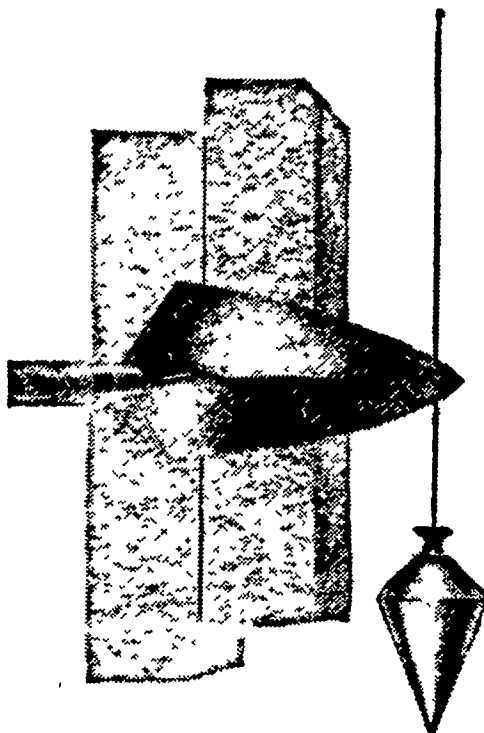
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