



Mrs. Judith Gould, plant science research assistant at the University of Delaware, checks the operation of the

ozone chamber to test plant response to air pollution.

What's New?

Air Pollution Tester
Air pollution damages your backyard petunias just as much as it hurts the farmer's crop.

And now, an inexpensive ozone chamber will show what air pollution looks like and which plants will be hurt most.

The portable chamber was developed by University of Delaware plant science researchers, under the direction of Dr. Donald J. Fieldhouse, associate professor, to test plant reaction to ozone in the field. Ozone is the major cause of air pollution damage on the East Coast, according to Mrs. Judith Gould, research assistant, and Frederick Wiebel, graduate student.

Car exhaust fumes are the primary source of ozone. However, it is formed high in the atmosphere so pollution from

large cities like Philadelphia and Baltimore can affect plants a hundred miles away.

Exactly how ozone injures plants is not yet known, the two researchers admit. "But the effects are obvious—and they differ from one kind of plant to another. Watermelon leaves show white specks, potatoes show black spots and beans, red," Mrs. Gould says.

Damage even changes from one variety to the next. We know, for instance, of one potato variety which shows no effects while another, exposed to the same ozone concentration, develops white specks and has a lower yield, she adds.

We take the "box" in the field, dose a few plants with a controlled ozone level, and check what happens. It's the easiest way to screen for resistant

varieties, since we don't have to wait for highly polluted air to hit the field naturally, Wiebel says. "We're also checking several chemical sprays that seem to protect plants. However, the ones we're testing only work for a short time."

The "box" is easily put together and, in all, it costs less than \$10. However, ozone and

ultraviolet light can be dangerous to work with, so the researchers don't recommend a do-it-yourself project.

The ozone is formed in an opaque bottle which holds an ozone bulb such as those used in an ordinary clothes dryer. Air is moved across the ozone bulb with an aquarium pump, and the generated ozone flows into a box large enough to fit over several plants.

They are working particularly with potatoes and watermelons, but ozone may affect almost any flower, shrub or vegetable.

Foamspray Products
Six of America's top chemical companies have been signed up

as regional distributors of Service Technology Corporation's Foamspray products, it was announced here recently. The six firms give the Foamspray line a nationwide distribution network.

Foamspray is a foaming adjuvant which, when mixed with agricultural chemicals, drastically reduces drift problems in spray operations. It is supported in the agricultural and industrial markets by an extensive advertising and marketing program. A Foamspray home garden kit is currently being introduced in selected markets.

Kenneth E. Wiley, STC vice

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