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**"Living Filter" Purifies Water**

With about three and a half million acres of land the U.S. could assure itself a permanent supply of fresh water.

Dr. Louis T. Kardos, environmental scientist at Penn State, revealed this and even more striking evidence of the recycling capacity of soils to the Seventh International Water Quality Symposium in Washington last week.

The figure is based on land requirements of the sewage recycling system developed by Kardos and others at Penn State over the past ten years.

Three and a half million acres is less than a quarter of one percent of the total land area of the U.S. A relatively small investment, he notes, for the pure water it could deliver.

The system involves the spraying of treated sewage

effluent over crop and forest lands. The effluent is made fit to drink by percolation through the soil where microorganisms join with soil characteristics to filter out impurities.

Kardos, a member of the University's Institute for Research On Land and Water Resources, called attention to the prodigious capacity of topsoil to react with bacteria and viruses and "filter" them, as well as chemicals, out of wastewater.

Billions of microorganisms inhabit a mere pinch of topsoil. In addition, a good soil makes available huge surface areas for the filtration effort.

One clod of loam no bigger than a cube of sugar may contain 200,000 square inches of surface area.

A single plant (rye) in such soil vastly enriches its

**Soybean Info Needed**

The American Soybean Association (ASA) is developing a book on the history of soybeans, but needs help. Anyone with any historical soybean information should get in contact with ASA.

Kent Pellett, retired editor of the Soybean Digest, has been assigned the task of researching and writing the history.

Pellett wants to hear from anyone who can tell about changes in soybean production, marketing and utilization. Important changes involving soybeans have taken place in varieties, machines row widths, feeding practices of livestock, marketing procedures and use in the human diet.

Anyone with information to submit to Pellett can write him in care of ASA, Hudson, Iowa 50643.

filtering capabilities by developing 13 million roots with a length of 387 miles and 2,554 sq. feet of surface area. It will have 14 billion root hairs whose surface area—this is still, Kardos notes, a single plant—is 4,321 sq. feet. "This makes clear," Kardos says, "why we have dubbed our system the Living Filter. The land biosystem appears to be unexcelled in its ability to purify water."

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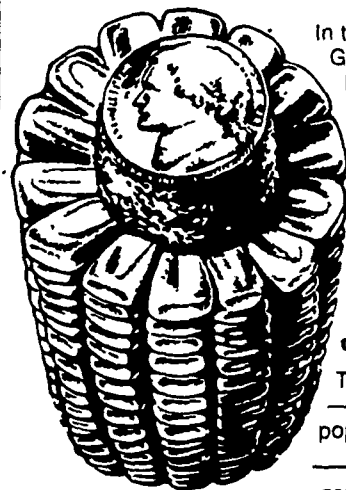
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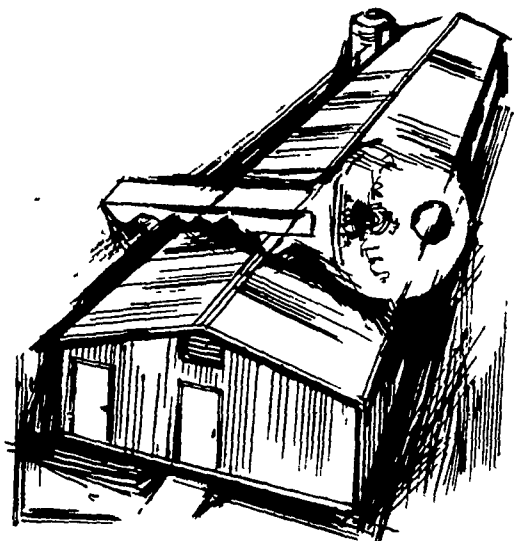
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