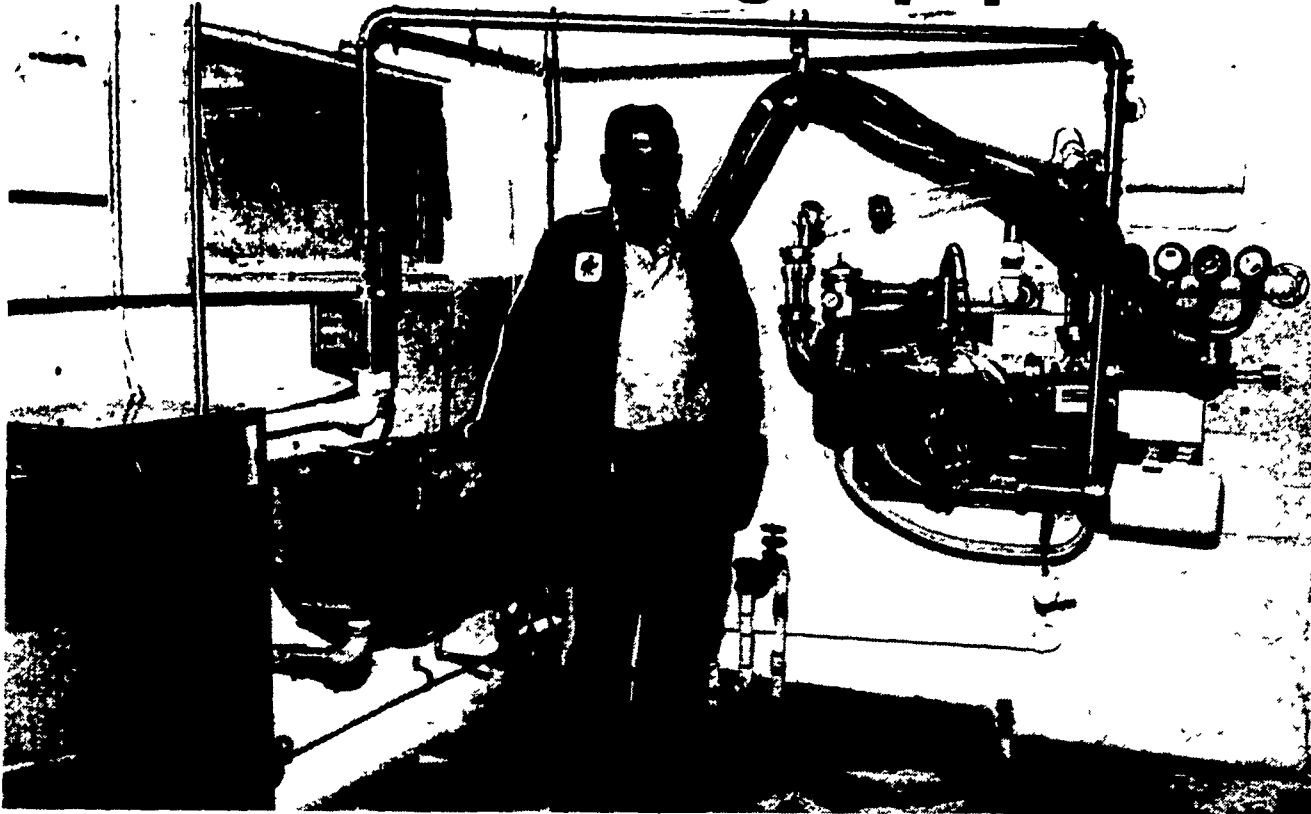


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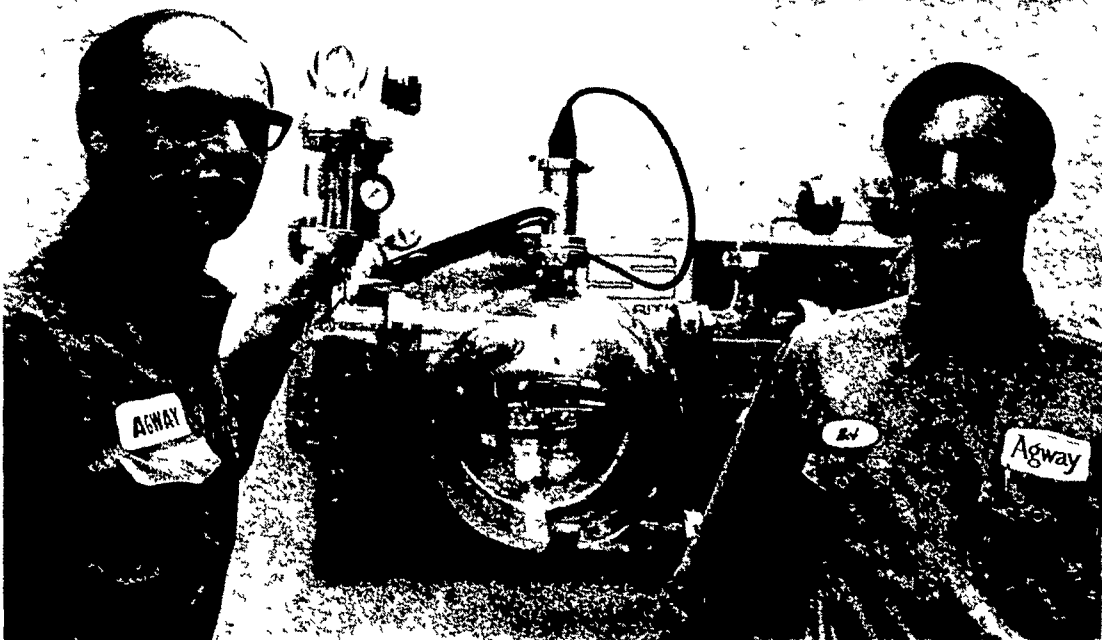


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Gypsy Moth Defoliation

Survey figures compiled from this year's aerial surveillance flights by the Bureau of Forestry of the Department of Environmental Resources, show that 479,590 acres were defoliated by the Gypsy moth in 1974. This represents a pleasant 44 percent reduction over the acreage defoliated in 1973, instead of an increase as anticipated. The major declines were principally in Monroe and Pike Counties where 406,400 acres were defoliated last year but which experienced only 11,210 acres defoliated this year, a 97 percent reduction. These reductions were expected in the Poconos, but the rate of spread into new areas was considerably less than in previous years.

The decreases were primarily the result of biological forces, although various Government and privately conducted spraying projects prevented defoliation on an estimated 150,000 acres. A stress induced virus disease, probably resulting from over-population, appeared to be the principal cause of the decline, followed by increasing amounts of parasite activity.

The following indicates the damage sustained by counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania:

Acreage moderately defoliated (30 to 60 percent): Berks 40,310, Bucks 25,130, Montgomery 4,830.

Acreage heavily defoliated (over 60 percent): Berks 9,150, Bucks 6,400, Montgomery 0.

Total 1974 defoliation: Berks 49,460, Bucks 31,530, Montgomery 4,830.

Total 1973 defoliation: Berks 69,120, Bucks 29,470, Montgomery 4,330.

The four counties of Schuylkill, Carbon, Luzerne, and Centre accounted for 68 percent of the total

defoliation. There are at least five other counties where the populations are building to the point where problems may be expected in 1975. These are Chester, Columbia, Lancaster, Lycoming, and Northumberland.

Population declines in the older-infested counties east of the Susquehanna River were not shared west of the river. The central Pennsylvania area showed an increase in defoliation in a 5 county area from 14,670 acres in 1973 to 95,480 acres in 1974. Consequently, the Gypsy moth problem is not disappearing, but is shifting to new areas.

Kiwi Fruit Has Potential

An odd-looking fruit that looks non-edible promises to provide American consumers a nutritious new taste treat and American farmers a lucrative new crop.

It's kiwi, known to some as the Chinese gooseberry. Native to Asia, the fruit was first produced commercially in New Zealand where it was named "kiwi" after the country's national bird.

About the size of a hen egg, it has a brownish skin with a covering of short, stiff hairs. When peeled and sliced, kiwi fruit has a green flesh that becomes a cream shade at the center. Its taste is described as a combination of strawberry, rhubarb, and pineapple.

The fruit has a higher Vitamin C content than citrus, is rich in iron, and its enzymes reportedly aid in digestion.

While most of the kiwi fruit now being sold in this country is imported, an estimated 300 growers planted about 2,000 acres of kiwi vines in California last year. Culture of kiwi plants is similar to that of grapes.

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