

Rain forests used for ag expansion mismanaged

UNIVERSITY PARK — Misunderstanding and mismanagement are destroying the world's jungles and they could be gone in 20 years, says Penn State's David L. Pearson, an internationally known specialist in tropical rain forest ecology.

Tropical rain forests, he contends, determine weather patterns, form one of the last potential sites for agricultural expansion, and contain a living chronicle of

earth's evolutionary history. "They are the most complex ecosystems on earth," he adds, "and the terrestrial area we know the least about."

Dr. Pearson, assistant professor of biology, has conducted research in rain forests throughout the world and has published over a dozen scholarly papers on jungle ecology over the last four years. Recently, he was invited to be a featured speaker at the Fourth Pan

African Ornithological Congress to be held later this year in the Seychelles Islands.

Pearson frequently focuses on birds in his research because, he says, "they are the one tropical group about which scientists already know a great deal and are also good subjects with which to test general ecological patterns."

To illustrate, Pearson explains that tropical rain forests contain the greatest variety of bird species of any area on earth — more than 400 in a 300-mile-square area versus about 100 in a similar forest area in the eastern U.S.

"This pattern of extreme diversity, along with a similar pattern in plants, suggests that traditional one-crop agriculture (monoculture) will not work in these areas," he says. "And, in fact, wherever monoculture has been attempted, it has invariably failed."

In the jungle, Pearson notes, nutrients are not stored in the soil but are maintained in the plants and animals. Leaf litter and other organic debris is almost immediately recycled and reabsorbed into the plants.

Wholesale clear-cutting, as practiced in eastern Peru, for example, leaves behind relatively infertile soil and

leads to altered weather patterns via increased convection currents, dissipation of rain storms and an eventual drying up of the region.

In addition, the jungle's disappearance robs scientists of a unique opportunity to study evolution, Pearson believes. "Rain forests may be the areas in which birds originated," he says, "and they probably give a more accurate insight into normal bird communities than any other place on earth."

Tropical rain forests occur in a broad band circling the globe near the equator. Although they are radically different from forests in temperate areas, Pearson says they rarely fit the popular image of hot, steamy, impenetrable tangles of vegetation teeming with hostile tribes and ferocious beasts. He says the forest floor is actually darkly shaded by the taller trees, there is little ground cover, and travel is fairly easy. Local tribesmen are usually friendly and helpful and hostile animals are rarely encountered. Pearson admits that the jungle does hold some discomforts — mosquitos, for example — but he claims to have met more annoying varieties in Minnesota. "All in all," he says, "tropical rain forests are benign and comfortable places."

Wine grape growers to meet

LANCASTER - A special salute to Pennsylvania's wine grape growers will be given at a meeting of the Southeast Grape Industry Association on Sunday, March 7 at the Farm & Home Center, Arcadia Road, Lancaster. Members from the fourteen wine grape growing counties of southeastern Pennsylvania will attend, plus invited guests from nearby states.

Featured speaker will be Robert M. Ivie, president of Guild Wineries and Distilleries, San Francisco, the nation's largest grower-owned wine and brandy producing cooperative. Guild markets such well-known brands as Winemasters Guild, Cresta Blanca, Roma, Tavola and Cribari.

Special guests will be Agricultural educators and Pennsylvania's Deputy youth leaders from around Secretary of Agriculture the world met here recently Jane M. Alexander, a leader to begin planning for the in promoting wine grape First World Conference in growing in Pennsylvania, Agricultural Education to be and State Representative held there in November, Marvin E. Miller of Lancaster County.

The World Conference will be held in conjunction with wine-producing facilities in the 1976 National FFA California with an annual Convention and will include crushing capacity of 250,000 an "International Ag tons of grapes, will speak on Olympics" competition in "The Demand for Wine," farming skills such as The wine grape growing tractor operation, areas of southeastern mechanics, dairy and Pennsylvania are attracting livestock judging, horticultural interest and may develop into one of the major judging.

World ag ed conference planned

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Special guests will be Agricultural educators and Pennsylvania's Deputy youth leaders from around Secretary of Agriculture the world met here recently Jane M. Alexander, a leader to begin planning for the in promoting wine grape First World Conference in growing in Pennsylvania, Agricultural Education to be and State Representative held there in November, Marvin E. Miller of Lancaster County.

The World Conference will be held in conjunction with wine-producing facilities in the 1976 National FFA California with an annual Convention and will include crushing capacity of 250,000 an "International Ag tons of grapes, will speak on Olympics" competition in "The Demand for Wine," farming skills such as The wine grape growing tractor operation, areas of southeastern mechanics, dairy and Pennsylvania are attracting livestock judging, horticultural interest and may develop into one of the major judging.

STIHL SG17

MISTBLOWER — DUSTER

- Easy starting, even while mounted on back
- Weight 17.6 lbs.
- Upward range 32 ft.
- Air velocity 330 ft. per sec.



STIHL SG17

Ample Supply in Stock

DAVE'S ENGINE SERVICE

In rear of Stauffer's Machine Shop
1/4 mile south of Murrell on Pleasant

Valley Rd., RD3,
Ephrata, PA



PROVEN PROFIT BUILDERS FOR YOUR DAIRY COWS. FLORIN FEEDS

Are Scientifically Blended To Assure You of High Quality Formulas That Get Results.

Fortified with Vitamins and Minerals for Fast, Healthy Growth, and Top Milk Production!



WOLGEMUTH BROS., INC.
MOUNT JOY, PA PH: 653-1451

Top dress wheat now.

It is important that young wheat plants wake up to a full meal. It is time to set the table.

A fertilizer top dressing now will give your wheat grow-power to break out of winter dormancy. Help set deeper, stronger roots to boost yields. And build protein, too.

Stop in soon or phone us right away. We'll be glad to arrange a complete top dress wheat "package" — including a sound fertilizer recommendation and custom application.

We want to help.



Seed, Pesticides, Limestone Spreading Service

Rt. 100 & Race St
Macungie, PA
215-967-3215