

## Md. state tree is gypsy moth target

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland's state tree, white oak, may be an endangered species as far as ornamental planting is concerned.

"White oak is the preferred food plant of the gypsy moth," explains John Davidson, Extension entomologist at the University of Maryland. "While gypsy moths will eat over 300 kinds of trees and shrubs, white oak is usually the first to go."

"Unfortunately, oak trees are among the most widely planted ornamental species," continues Davidson. "Many suburban communities have grown stands of white and other oaks that are particularly attractive to gypsy moths."

"The problem is so severe that our new Extension publications will no longer recommend the use of oak, particularly white oak, as a tree for home plantings," says the University entomologist.

In Maryland, the first infestation of an area usually occurs when newly-hatched caterpillars drift with the wind and land on taller, mature trees. They feed in the crowns of the trees until they are larger, and it is usually at this stage that homeowners notice the problem. Control measures at that point are generally ineffective, suggests Davidson.

The pest was introduced into Massachusetts from Europe in 1869, but it did not spread rapidly until the late 1960s. The first extensive defoliation of Maryland trees (about 8,000 acres) occurred in the northeastern counties in 1981. Infestations are now reported throughout the state.

In view of this, Davidson suggests planting tree varieties

which gypsy moth caterpillars will not eat. Despite the wide range of acceptable food plants, the insects avoid tulip poplar, sycamore, ash, catalpa, dogwood, hackberry, honey locust, horse chestnut, persimmon, walnut, osage orange and mulberry among deciduous species, and holly, arborvitae, holly and juniper in the evergreen category. Homeowners should consult their county Extension

agent for information on which of these species grow well in their areas, according to Davidson.

"While oaks are the gypsy moth's first choice as food, they also feed readily on alder, apple, birch, boxelder, hawthorn, larch, linden, mountain ash, Lombardy poplar, black spruce, sumac and willows," says Davidson. "They also appear to be quite fond of roses and some other deciduous

shrubs," he continues.

For gardeners who still choose to use oak in ornamental plantings, Davidson issues a warning to expect trouble in the next few years. "The problem will show up first in areas close to woods and forested land," he notes, "but will eventually spread to urban communities as well."

At the very least, Davidson recommends planting no more

than 10 to 20 per cent oak in any given area, and to keep the trees separated from each other by barriers of species that are not attacked by gypsy moth.

The Extension entomologist still expects white oak to be hit hard in Maryland.

"Gypsy moth may do to white oak what Dutch elm disease did to residential elm plantings," Davidson predicts.

## Plans progress for nat'l Polled Hereford show, sale

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The 59th National Polled Hereford Convention-Show-Sale has been scheduled for Feb. 16-18, 1982, according to an announcement from the American Polled Hereford Association. The annual breed extravaganza will be held in conjunction with the Dixie National Livestock Exposition in Jackson, Miss.

Entries are expected to approach 400 head and premiums will surpass \$20,000, as the breed's best from the U.S. and Canada will meet in Jackson. In addition to the internationally acclaimed show, the 59th classic will feature the APHA awards banquet, annual meetings of the APHA and National Polled Hereford women's auxiliary and the National sale.

The National show will kick off general activities Tuesday, Feb. 16, with the judging scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., at the Dixie National's Mississippi Coliseum. The annual membership meeting will take place at 5 p.m. at the Coliseum Ramada Inn, headquarters for the proceedings. Mississippi Polled Hereford

breeders will host a "Mississippi Mixer" later in the evening.

Showing will resume at 9 Wednesday morning and will culminate in the slapping of the champions. Three nationally prominent beef judges have been named to the three-man composite judging team. They are Joe Lewis of Alfalfa Lawn Farms, Larned, Kan.; Dr. Dave Hawkins of Michigan State University, East Lansing; and Bill Bennett of BB Cattle Co., Connell, Wash. The judges will also establish the sale order for the National sale. The awards banquet with the Hall of Fame enshrinement, Hall of Merit presentations and National Polled Hereford Queen contest, will begin at 7 p.m., Wed., Feb. 17 at the Ramada.

Three noted pioneer Polled Hereford breeders will be inducted into the Hall of Fame that night. They are Ernest Painter and his father, the late Ralph Painter, both of La Harpe, Ill.; and Earl Vescovi, Roundup, Mont. The distinguished recipients of the Hall of Merit Awards will be R.O. Buckley, Jackson, Miss., for his

work in public affairs; Dr. Hilton Briggs, Brookings, S.D., for education and research; E.H. "Ham" Wilson, Montgomery, Ala., for contributions in communications; and Jim and Sue Rowland, Marysville, Kan., for their work with youth.

An expected consignment of 50 top-quality Polled Hereford bulls and heifers will climax the events of the 59th National with the National Sale. It is scheduled for

Thurs., Feb. 18, in the Mississippi Trade Mart Building, across from the Coliseum at 9 a.m. An advance nomination, screening and selection procedure has been reinstated with this year's show, and all sale animals will show in the National Show.

The 59th National Polled Hereford Convention-Show-Sale is shaping up to be the headline event of the 1982 Dixie National Livestock Show.

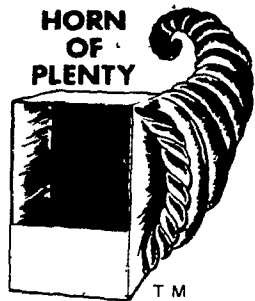
## Don't load firearms before shooting time

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Game Commission urges hunters going afield before daylight not to load their guns prior to the legal shooting hour.

During deer seasons, hunters often start out well before daylight so they reach their favorite hunting spots before dawn. Some of

these hunters load their firearms before starting out.

Hunters usually trip on branches, roots, rocks, etc. when traveling in the darkness, particularly through the woods. Sometimes, a gun accidentally discharges when the hunter trips or falls, and a serious accident can result.



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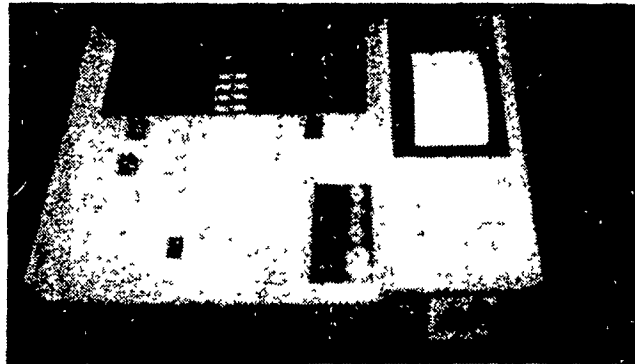
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