

Pesticide Safety For Homeowners

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — When people hear the word "pesticides," the images that come to mind probably include cropdusters flying over cornfields and exterminators in protective suits.

But pesticides come in many forms, including several that are used in and around the home. Visitors to Penn State's Ag Progress Days can learn more about using home and garden pesticides safely during a special presentation at

6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19 in the College Exhibits Building theatre.

"We're providing practical use, handling and safety information for homeowners and other non-professional pesticide users," says Scott Harrison, coordinator for Penn State's Pesticide Education Program. "We'll also provide an opportunity for homeowners to get answers to their questions about pesticides."

Harrison and other specialists from the program will discuss a variety of pesticide-related topics.

"When you use a weed killer, spray for ants or even treat your dog for fleas, you're using a pesticide," says Kerry M. Hoffman, project associate with the program. "There are health considerations for each of these products."

"We'll be discussing what types of protective equipment, from gloves to respirators, are appropriate

for different households pesticide applications."

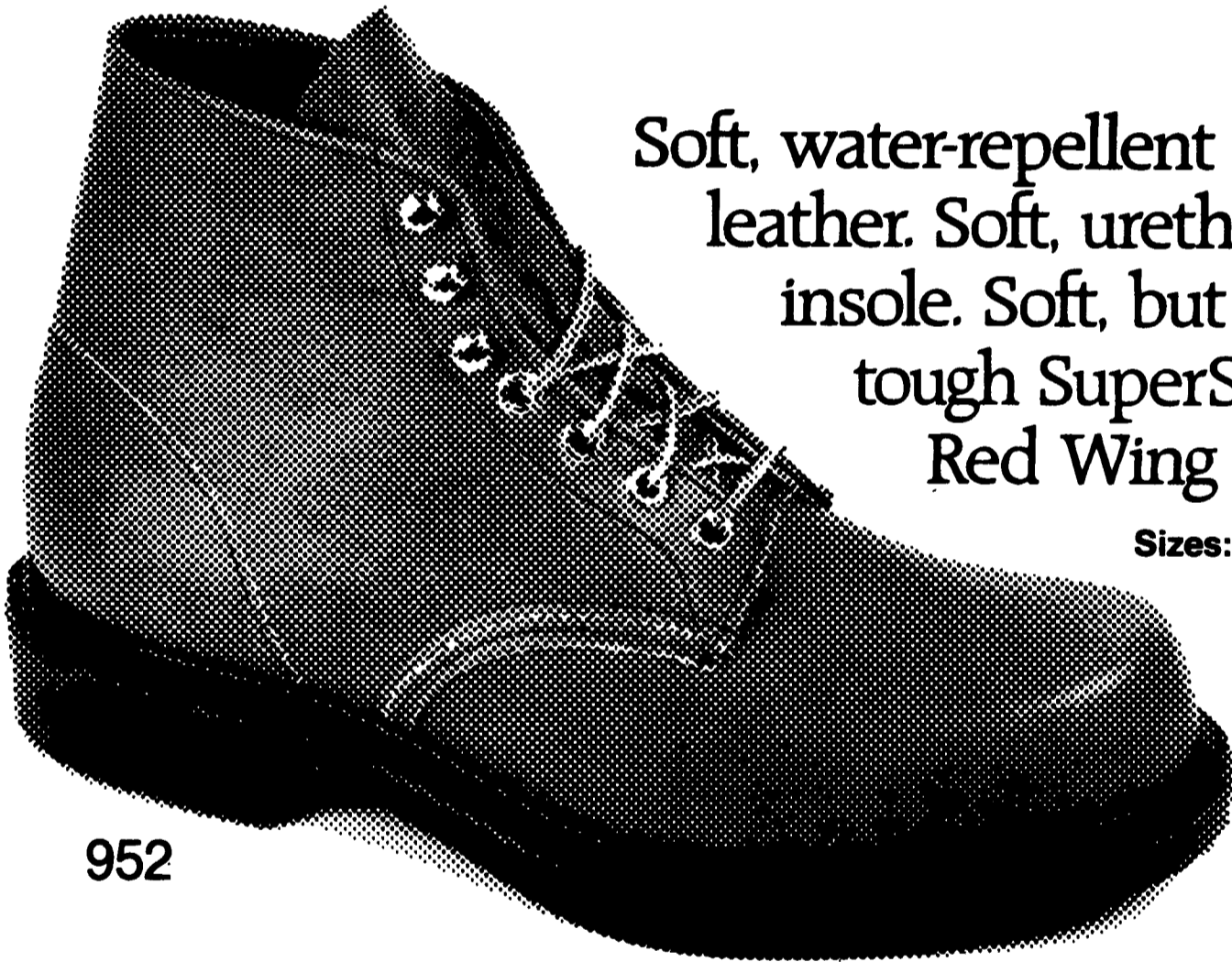
The presentation will cover safe handling use of chemicals. "Home pesticides generally aren't as hazardous as those used for agricultural applications," Hoffman says. "But they still can cause serious injury or even death if mis-handled. We'll go over various chemical handling practices that will protect your family's safety."

The specialists also will discuss

methods that federal inspectors, food processors and supermarkets use to monitor and minimize residues on food, as well as preparation techniques people can use to reduce pesticide residues. The program will conclude with a question-and-answer session.



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