

Insect Spraying Should Be Simple

There are many fabulous new chemicals used in agriculture and horticulture for the control of weeds.

Nearly all of the field corn grown in Michigan is treated with one of several highly sophisticated chemicals which practically eliminates all hoeing and cultivating to control weeds.

Other chemicals are developed for other crops. Commercial vegetable and flower growers, and nurserymen have learned to use very specific materials for very specific weed control problems. But in the home vegetable garden the procedures are different.

ALMOST EVERY different crop on a farm requires a different chemical weedkiller. There is no "universal" selective material. Carrots, for instance, require a special chemical for carrots and only a few other crops.

Tomatoes need a chemical which will remove nearly all plant growth except light-shade family crops.

Corn can use Atrazine, a chemical which sometimes leaves long-time residues in the soil if over-used, and prevents the growth of any crop except corn in the following year.

Furthermore, rates of application are very critical with most of these chemicals. Two pounds of Atrazine per acre will do a good job in most corn fields. One pound per acre will be insufficient, and three pounds might leave dangerous residues for the next year.

A HOMEOWNER would have difficulty in scaling the correct application down from one acre (43,560 square feet) to a couple of rows in his backyard. If he had drift to an adjoining

crop, or if a downpour washed some of the newly applied chemical over to an adjoining crop it could cause damage.

Chemicals specially designed for lawns are much more adaptable to homeowner use, however.

The preemergent crabgrass killers work very well if applied at the right rate and at the right time.

Broadleaf weedkillers to control dandelions and plantains and other weeds are very effective. But these broadleaf weed control products will kill almost all vegetation except grasses, if wrongly applied.

Trees and shrubs sprayed with 2, 4-D products are often damaged. Even the drift from a spray job may cause harm. It is very difficult—almost impossible to clean 2, 4-D products from sprayers.

IN GENERAL, then, it would be rather difficult for a homeowner to make much use of any of the various chemicals used in weed control in his garden, unless he is willing to purchase a very wide variety of products

learn how to carefully calibrate his equipment, guard against drift or wash, and respect possible soil residues. The hand cultivator and garden hoe remain the homeowner's best weapon against weeds in his vegetable and flower gardens.

Mulches of such materials as cocoa hulls, ground corncobs, sphagnum peat moss and other materials are effective in preventing weed growth.

Many commercial growers use a thin black plastic sheet with the plant inserted through a small hole in the sheet to prevent weeds, raise soil temperatures, and prevent water evaporation.

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Azalea Buds Develop During Dry Season

If your azaleas did not bloom very well this spring, think back to last September. Did you go on vacation then without making provision for watering the azaleas during dry weather? The buds for next year's flowers on azaleas are developed during the summer and fall. Any severe check in growth by lack of water at that time causes a reduction in the number of flower buds set.

If the drought continues until the leaves wilt, the plants themselves may be stunted and become more susceptible to additional injury from cold the following winter. When watering, it is advisable to soak the earth to a depth of several inches to insure reaching all the roots. Then do not water again for five to seven days or until the need for it appears. Although ample moisture at the roots is essential, excess water or a sodden condition in the soil is harmful.


AZALEAS growing in soils that have been improved by organic matter and kept mulched usually do not need to be fertilized. After the plants have become large enough for a good display, a moderate rate of growth may be more productive of flowers than a rapid or forced growth. As long as the

plants continue to have a thrifty appearance and normal deep green color, little, if any, fertilizer is needed. Some of the best azaleas I have ever seen, growing in the Norfolk, Va., botanical garden have never been fertilized.

On the other hand, if your plants lack vigor and have yellowish foliage early in the summer due to soil stress, they can be greatly helped by fertilizers, both organic and inorganic, that are acid in reaction. The use of fertilizers is particularly valuable for young plants to encourage as rapid growth as is consistent with proper maturity.

The most effective time to fertilize azaleas is soon after they finish blooming. Late applications may cause active tender growth to continue until fall, when they do not have time to harden before frosty weather. Thorough watering after applying fertilizers hastens their availability to the plants and lessens any danger of injury from them.

Cottonseed meal has been used in many places and is one of the best fertilizers for azaleas and rhododendrons. It is a good source of nitrogen, the element most generally deficient, and also contains small amounts of phosphorus and potassium.



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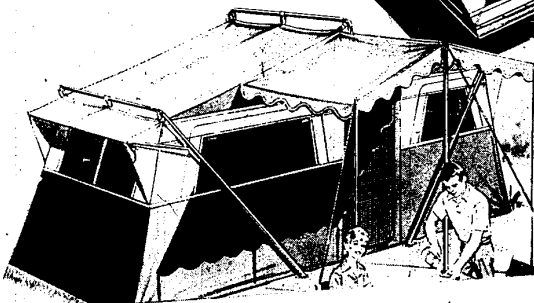
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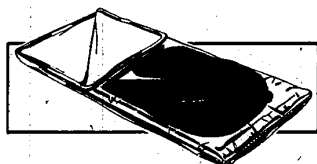
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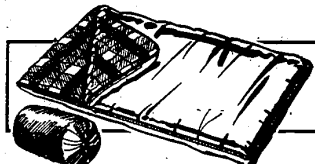
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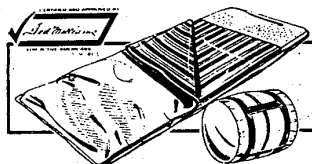
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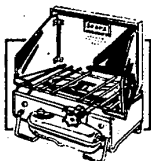
For cool nights. Multi-layer construction. 100% Vycron® polyester fiberfill. Oxford cloth outer cover, cotton flannel liner. Full length zipper each side, washable. Tail 80x34"

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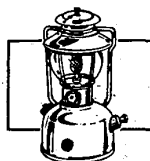
Keeps liquids hot or cold for 8 hours, unbreakable plastic with a styrene insulation.



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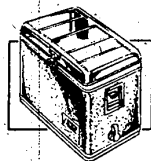
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