

MacMullan Blasts Pesticides As Threat

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is condensed from "The Case Against Hard Pesticides" which appeared in the January-February issue of Michigan Conservation. Author is state Conservation Director Ralph A. MacMullan.)

Michigan has come to a point in its history when it must outlaw the use of certain highly destructive pesticides such as DDT, Dieldrin, Aldrin, Heptachlor, Endrin, Lindane, Chlordane, and other "hard," or persistent chemical compounds.

Threats of fire, pestilence, and plague against our natural resources are as nothing compared to the pervasive and sinister attacks of such chemicals. They have now polluted our environment to the extent that we no longer eat any food or drink any fluid without swallowing at least minute quantities of these chemicals.

DDT is found in the waters of the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans, thousands of miles from any area where it has ever been used.

It is found in fish life of the deep oceans. It is found inside the eggs of hawks and ospreys and falcons—eggs which do not hatch for birds whose numbers are now in decline. We kill robins, our state symbol, and prevent the birth of bald eagles, our national symbol, with these pesticides.

Two years ago, a U.S. Public Health Service study showed that the average American has gathered 12 parts per million of DDT into his human fatty tissue. Nursing mothers now impart .00 parts per million of DDT in human milk given

to their infants. Frankly, no one knows what 12 parts per million in human fatty tissue means. But we know it's going to stay there and that DDT in far smaller concentrations has awesome consequences for many small or simple forms of animal life.

We have until recently condoned ourselves to be carried much too far down this hazardous road.

We have until recently condoned use of such chemicals even in the Department of Conservation, and we have in the past used them to reduce forest insects, park pests, and fish and game problems.

We are all sheep in the same herd, and the real fight is not against some distant state or federal bureau, or lone farmer, or crop-dusting pilot.

The real fight is against ourselves. Are you, as an urban, or suburban householder, willing to pay 25 cents a pound for apples where you now pay 20 cents? Will you accept higher prices when crops come home in short supply?

Individually and collectively, we enjoy big, luscious wormless fruits and vegetables available at every market, and we fail to question the individual farmer or cross-grower when crops and flowers are dusted, several times each year.

But we should question them, and we should question ourselves. The weight of evidence against these hard, or persistent chemicals is now so overwhelming that there is no longer any doubt of the need to end their use.

THESE CHEMICALS are mainly used in agriculture to control insect pests, and with-

out question they appear to be highly effective. Generally they are spread as dust or in a fine spray that blankets an entire area. Unfortunately, this blanket keeps slipping off the bed.

One study shows that up to half of all DDT spread by crop-dusting airplanes does not settle, but escapes into the atmosphere. If not spread by airplane, such chemicals are carried from croplands by the runoff of rainwaters or melting snow, or by any vagrant breeze.

As a result, DDT and other similar chemicals are now found in every major river system of the United States, in all the Great Lakes and all our inland lakes, in soil organisms, and in virtually all human and animal life on which studies have been carried out.

SADDEST OF ALL; DDT, the most persistent of the bunch, loses only half its potency over a period of 10 to 15 years. If all further use of these chemicals were halted right now, we would still have to live with the effects of our past excesses for more than a generation.

Individual communities throughout the state also can contribute their share to the effort by refraining from use of these chemicals in control, for example, of Dutch elm disease.

Bonded Fabric Offers Many

A wide range of fabrics bonded to lining are now available for home sewing. Acetate and nylon tricot are the most commonly used fabrics for backing, says Mrs. Ruth Ann Wilson, extension clothing specialist of the Pennsylvania State University.

Bonded backing materials make lacy open weave, knit, and lace fabrics easy to cut and handle. Mrs. Wilson points out some fabrics become more adaptable because of the added body of the bonded lining. This makes it possible for you to use bonded crepes for tailored skirts and dresses.

PERSONS WHO are allergic to certain fabrics find them more comfortable when bonded to a soft lining.

Because you cannot restore grain to off-grain bonded fabrics, be sure you check the grain position carefully before you buy the yardage, advises Mrs. Wilson.

Usually, bonded knits need an interfacing at the neckline and buttonhole area. As both face and backing fabrics are knit, they have comparable stretch properties.

CAREFUL FITTING, before final stitching is important because stitching may mark some bonded fabrics, making alterations impossible.

Bonded fabrics don't always have greater resiliency because of their tricot backing, and some don't lose their wear wrinkles readily and require pressing after each wearing, she adds.



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