

How much liquid plant food?

Many home gardeners like to use liquid plant food on their flowers, vegetables and shrubs, using what is called a "nose-end" sprayer. One of the soluble plant foods applied in this manner is Rapid-gro which has a formula 23-19-17. There are others on the market which are also safe, fast, efficient and easy to apply.

A reader who uses the 23-19-17 formula writes: "We usually apply it at

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The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

the rate of one teaspoon per quart of water for foliage feeding, but since the sprayers dilute the solution 24 to 1, or 80 to 1, depending on their setting, should we start with a more concentrated solution to make up for this dilution?"

Answer: Since this involves some arithmetic (and I'm the world's worst mathematician) I'll try to answer this in everyday, backyard language. First, take one teaspoon of the soluble plant food, and mix it with two teaspoons of water. Or, you can use ANY one measure of the fertilizer and add it to two similar measures of water, and mix them together.

In other words, it doesn't make any difference which measure you use,

FANCY LEAVED crotons are fleshy plants. They make an ideal decoration in the living room since they take little care, will thrive on low light, and only require amounts of watering.

Unfortunately, crotons are in the news a lot these days because of a German discovery that the plants contain a substance which can function as "tumor promoters." People are worried about getting sick because of an active principle (phorbol esters).

Don't worry about getting cancer from handling the plants or having them around. If you ate the plant or smoked the leaves, it would be a different story.

The Cancer Institute tells us that "the magnitude of exposure of people to carcinogens derived from tobacco is vastly greater than the exposure that may result from occasional contacts with ornamental plants."

So don't worry about getting cancer by having crotons around the house. GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "We have lots of plants, needles and wonder if they can be used as a match in the garden?"

Answer: Yes, they are fine. Put them around fruit trees, the evergreens and in the flower and vegetable garden.

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Liability insurance is popular

During a television newscast in the midst of the tornado season, a young mother, holding her baby, stared at the bereaved families of what had been her newly-built home.

She said that she and her husband had moved into their new house and made their first monthly mortgage payment a few days before the tornado struck. Fortunately she added that they carried no insurance.

By now the young homeowner has certainly discovered she was mistaken. She had forgotten that proof of adequate insurance was required by the mortgage company. Consequently she did have the financial protection she so desperately needed.

THE INSURANCE Information Institute says there are almost 3.2 million households in Illinois made up of 1.7 million families who own their homes and nearly 1.5 million who rent the apartment or house they live in. This is over 70 billion dollars of value subject to loss!

Many of these owners and tenants buy extensive insurance coverage, but they may not remember just how much financial protection they have provided for themselves—either through the basic fire and extended coverage or the broader homeowners or tenant homeowners package policies.

Since its introduction in the early 1960s the package concept for property and liability insurance protection has climbed steadily in popularity. Today the combination coverage is selected by about 80 per cent of all household insurance buyers, either in the homeowners policy or tenant homeowners form.

IF YOU HAVE one of these policies, do you know what you bought? The tenant's policy contains virtually the same extensive coverage as the most popular type of dwelling homeowners package except that insurance for the actual building structure is omitted.

The most common version of the homeowners policy covers the dwelling and other structures on the lot, such as garage or toolshed, plus the personal property contents—furniture, equipment and clothes. This personal property protection applies whether a loss occurs in the home or away from the premises.

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