

New Process to Combat Fruit Fly

Entomology

Thanks to research scientists who have discovered a method of processing grapefruit, oranges and other fruit so that they can not harbor the dangerous Mediterranean fruit fly, the next citrus fruit crop of Florida will be able to move in commerce with perfect protection against spread of the pest to other states.

Since the new crop comes on the market in September, the newly perfected method of utilizing the cold storage and coloring processes and plants of Florida to render the whole fruit incapable of harboring the eggs and larvae of the dangerous pest is expected to relieve the financial situation that has developed in Florida as a result of the necessary quarantine enforced since the fruit fly was discovered four months ago.

The processing method that U. S. Department of Agriculture officials plan to substitute for the destruction of fruit that has been past practice was developed by federal research scientists. At present the full details of the method have not been announced, but it is said to be commercially feasible as well as effective in preventing all chance of a spread of the pest to other parts of the country. Heretofore Florida growers in the infested area, which produces 80 per cent. of Florida's fruit, have had only the prospect of destroyed fruit

with only partial federal reimbursement for the loss involved. Now, while marketing will not proceed with the freedom of the pre-fruit-fly era, the crop can be sold and financial disaster will not loom.

When the committee of entomological experts sent by Secretary of Agriculture Hyde to study the fruit fly situation saw the possibilities of the processing method, they recommended that it be substituted for embargoes and destruction of suspected fruit in order that the fruit could be sold, the economic situation improved, cooperation from Florida growers maintained and costly reimbursements for destroyed fruits be avoided.

Though details of the proposed processing method have not been made known, it is known to be essentially an extension of the refrigerating and ripening processes that have hitherto been used by citrus shippers. The same equipment would be used. The cooling would be carried a little lower and the warming of the ripening or coloring process would be to a somewhat higher degree. This modification of the preparation of the fruit for market will kill all developing fruit flies that may be lurking within the fruit and make it perfectly safe.

This year's citrus crops would normally start moving in commerce in September and it is hoped that all of

it, through the new processing method, can be placed on the market.

Four months ago, when the Mediterranean fruit fly was discovered to have invaded Florida, research entomologists were sent into the war zone with the entomological "shock troops" who destroyed infested fruit and held up shipments. They were quiet and unassuming warriors who set to work breeding and encouraging in cages the very fruit flies that their brother fighters were destroying. One of the first problems that they tackled was some way of making the citrus fruits safe for commerce even if at one time they had been infested. In the cold and heat treatment involved in the common commercial pre-cooling and coloring methods of pre-fruit-fly days they found the essence of the method that now promises to lift Florida out of the depths of its latest misfortune.

It was a matter of making the commercial methods more extreme. And now the processing of citrus fruits practically accomplished, the entomologists are turning toward the protection of other fruits, favorites of the fruit fly and grown in Florida's infested area.

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Breed Mice in Colors

Heredity

"Colored Mice to Match Your Dresses" may be a popular fad some day if the predictions of Smith College Zoology students come true. Even now the members of one of the zoology classes will guarantee you mice of any one of five different shades.

The class has been concentrating on experiments on the inheritance of color. All mice are descended from ancestors of a single color, "agouti," or the grayish-brown which conceals them so well in the woods. By breeding it is possible to isolate the new color patterns in pure hereditary form and then to predict the proportions in which they will occur in the offspring. So when a student crosses a black mouse with a yellow mouse she is usually able to predict mathematically what color the young will be, and how many there will be of each color.

Sometimes, however, "mutations" occur. These are mice of a color different from that of either parent, whose offspring also will be of this new color.

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Olympus Urged for Greek Park

Geography

Mount Olympus, majestic abode of the old Greek gods, may be turned into a typical twentieth century institution, a national park. Advocates of the national park idea in Greece are stressing both the esthetic and economic value to their nation in the creation of such a reservation. Since the national park has become a typically American institution, U. S. Park Service officials are pleased at the far-flung spread of a movement they foster.

The area proposed to be set aside would include the entire mass of Mount Olympus with its great crags, cascades, springs, grottos and venerable trees. The mountain which seemed to the ancient Greeks a fitting home for the deities that ruled their world, is still impressive in an age that has seen almost everything. From the shores of the Aegean Sea, the moun-

tain mass rises to a height of almost 10,000 feet. Its highest peaks are snow-crowned during the greater part of the year.

In addition to Mount Olympus, the park area would include such historic points as the gorge of Tempe, the Byzantine fortress of Platamona, a beach strip, and the slope of Scotinas with the Callipeucian Forest. The park would be largely wilderness, comparable to the Great Smoky Mountains country in America.

In spite of the renown of Mount Olympus, the region is still almost unknown to all but the hardest of explorers and mountaineers. The first known ascent of its highest peak was made in 1913 by two Swiss mountaineers. The following year an American and a Greek who was a naturalized American succeeded in making the climb.

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