

If you want to learn more first aid methods, call your local Red Cross about joining one of their classes.

Science News Letter, October 31, 1953

ENTOMOLOGY

**New Mist Blower Passes Chemical-Spraying Tests**

► A NEW spraying device designed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture has successfully passed rugged tests at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, proving that it can treat small orchards with insecticides economically.

The 200-pound machine can be mounted on a farm tractor, small trailer or pick-up truck, and is highly maneuverable. By means of a powerful air blast, it delivers tiny particles of highly concentrated insecticides to small plants and trees.

Tests showed the machine is not suitable for treating shade trees more than 40 feet tall, but that it can easily handle nursery stock, row crops, grapevines and small fruits. It also can be martialled against insect pests and mosquitoes.

Mist blowers are said to hold an advantage over ordinary spray machines because mist blowers economize in chemical consumption and give better foliage coverage. This reduces labor needed for frequent refilling of the spray tank.

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AGRICULTURE

**Iron Chemicals Produce Greener Trees and Plants**

► IRON-CONTAINING CHEMICALS known as "chelating agents" can make pallid trees turn a rich green and cause plants to survive in barren soil with irrigation water previously too alkaline.

Drs. Arthur Wallace, C. P. North, A. M. Kofranek and O. R. Lunt of the College of Agriculture at the University of California at Los Angeles report that much of the pallor in trees growing in southern California and other semi-arid areas is due to a condition known as chlorosis, resulting from excessive lime in the soil.

Treating lime soils with these chemicals controlled the chlorosis effectively. The trees became green and stayed green for several months without additional treatment.

For ornamental plants the treatment is very economical. No economic data are available on the use with commercial fruit trees.

Technical nicknames for the "chelating agents" are EDTA, DTPA and HEEDTA. They should be thoroughly watered into the soil and then normal irrigating procedure followed. Excessive applications can result in leaf burning similar to that caused by excessive use of fertilizers.

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**WEIGHED IN THE AIR**—The clamshell bucket of ore being unloaded from this ship is weighed as it swings ashore by a new electrical method. The load weight is shown on an indicator in the operator's cab shown alongside the bucket. The total weight unloaded is also shown on a totalizing counter. The daily handling capacity of the crane is thus increased substantially.

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