

BOTANY

Greener, Bushier Plants Formed by Chemicals

► A NEW GROUP of chemicals called morphactins may help create green carpets of short, bushy healthy plants to beautify the edges of highways and sports fields.

The compounds are basically fluorene-9-carboxylic acids, Drs. Gerhart Schneider, Dietrich Erdmann, Sigmund Lust, Gunther Mohr and Konrad Niethammer of the Research Laboratories of E. Merck AG Darmstadt, Germany, reported.

Peculiar, stunted and malformed plants with bushy leaves, which often become gradually darker green, result from the compounds, the scientists reported in *Nature* 5014:1013, 1965.

Plants with these odd characteristics could be attractive along highways, railroads, ditch banks and other areas where foliage should be healthy, green and not grow too tall to save time and effort in cutting and caring for them.

The chemicals are not harmful to mammals or fish.

• Science News Letter, 89:31 January 8, 1966

Nature Note

Segmented Worms

► "STRETCHABLE" segmented worms with a head and a digestive tract are commonly found throughout the world from the mud of the sea's deepest abysses to the jungle's moist foliage and the icy surfaces of glaciers.

The rings or segments that mark the bodies of the earthworm, the ragworm and the leech have given these creatures their phylum name Annelida, from a French corruption of the Latin word *anellus*, a ring. Each of the encircling grooves corresponds to the boundaries of an internal partition dividing the body into a series of almost identical segments.

There are about 7,000 species of annelid worms, belonging to five different classes. Some are land animals, but most prefer the water, some living in fresh water and others in the sea.

The most familiar of the annelids is the earthworm, that plowman of nature that burrows in the soil, dragging decaying plants, organic materials and air into the ground, and bringing to the surface pellets of earth and digested material. Charles Darwin estimated that each acre of land contain up to 50,000 earthworms. In the course of a year, more than 15 tons of soil per acre might be brought to the surface by these tiny "cultivators."

A less attractive creature, the blood-sucker or leech, belongs to the same phylum. Over 250 species are known, coming from all parts of the world where there are muddy pools or moist swampy areas. Once used medicinally for bloodletting, the greenish-black creature is equipped with a sucker at both ends. It feels its way with one, taking hold with the other. It normally feeds on water animals such as fishes, turtles or snails but also attaches itself to water visitors such as dogs, cows and man.

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Make Money Writing Short Paragraphs

Chicago Man Reveals a Short Cut to Authorship

Discloses little-known angle by which beginners often get paid five to ten times more per word than the rates paid to famous authors. Now anyone who can write a sentence in plain English can write for money without spending weary years "learning to write!"



FOR years and years a relatively small number of people have had a "corner" on one of the most profitable authors' markets ever known. They've been going quietly along selling thousands and thousands of contributions. None of them have had to be trained authors. None of them have been "big name" writers. Yet, in hundreds of cases they have been paid from five to ten times as much per word as was earned by famous authors.

The successful men and women in this field had such a good thing that they kept it pretty well to themselves. Mr. Benson Barrett was one of these people. For years he enjoyed a steady income—made enough money in spare time to pay for a fine farm on the outskirts of Chicago.

Finally, Mr. Barrett decided to let others in on the secret. Since then he has shown a number of other men and women how to write for money. He has not had to give them any lessons in writing. He has not asked them to go through any long course of study or practice. In fact, most of his protégés have started mailing contributions to magazines within two weeks after starting with his plan.

Mr. Barrett says that the only skill required is that the aspiring author be able to write a sentence in plain English. Almost anyone with a common school education can write well enough to follow Mr. Barrett's plan, because the contributions you will send to magazines are rarely more than one paragraph in length.

Shut-ins, housewives, folks who are retired on small incomes, even employed men and women who like to use idle hours in a constructive way—all types are making money on short paragraphs.

Mr. Barrett does not teach you to write. He shows you *what* to write, what *form* to put it in, and *who* to send it to. He shows you a simple method for *getting ideas* by the hundreds. He gives you a list of more than 200 magazines that are looking for this kind of material and will buy from beginners. In other words, he teaches you a method, an angle, a plan for starting to write right away for money.

IF you would like to see your writing in print and get paid for it—just send your name on a postcard to Mr. Barrett. He will send full information about his plan of coaching by return mail—postage prepaid. He makes no charge for this information. And, no salesman will call on you. You decide, at home, whether you'd like to try his plan. If the idea of writing twenty or thirty short paragraphs a week and getting back a lot of small checks appeals to you, ask Mr. Barrett for this information.

No telling where it might lead. Such a small start might even open opportunities for real authorship. And, since it can't cost you anything more than a postcard, you'll certainly want to get all the facts. Address postcard to Mr. Benson Barrett, 6216 N. Clark St., Dept. 163-A, Chicago 26, Illinois.