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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE

• APRIL 17, 1943



Jefferson Memorial

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A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION



## Do You Know?

Wheat is a good feed for dairy cows.

The longest concrete *bridge* span in the world has just been completed in Sweden; it is 886 feet long.

A chemical compound which slowly releases *chlorine* into dish-water is used in the Army for sterilizing dishes.

Concrete should be allowed to age several months before painting, until the alkali in it becomes harmless to paint.

*Sorghum*, grown widely in the Midwest, will endure more heat and drought than any other common fodder crop.

*Zinc chloride* applied to freshly cut green fence posts will increase their life three or four times by retarding rotting.

Some 80,000 tons of *wood pulp* will be saved in 1943 by the reduction in sizes and stock items of grocers' and variety bags.

A new invisible *insecticide* paint, applied to window and door screens, kills flies, mosquitoes, gnats, moths, and ants trying to get in or out.

A good crop of alfalfa, red clover or wild white clover will fix in the soil as much *nitrogen* per acre as 250 to 1,000 pounds of ammonia fertilizer.

Certain *insecticides* formerly obtained from Japan and used to fight insect pests, are now used in fighting Japs and will not be available to Victory gardeners.

## Question Box

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#### AGRICULTURE

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#### INVENTION

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With what other diseases is rupture of a disk in the neck vertebrae confused? p. 245.

#### NUTRITION

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*Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.*

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In what form should you get your vitamins? p. 252.

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Why is wheat better for bread than any other cereal? p. 253.

#### PHYSICS

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What facilities will be available in Wright Field's new wind tunnel? p. 251.

#### POPULATION

What effect is the drafting of young married men likely to have on future population? p. 244.

#### PSYCHOLOGY

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#### PUBLIC HEALTH

How many soldiers are likely to be blinded in this war? p. 246.

In what 45-year war are we nearing victory? p. 243.

How much time does the typical American worker lose through illness? p. 249.

*Milk production* is reduced more rapidly by too little water than by the lack of other nutrient.

The Federal Petroleum Administration has asked the industry to drill 4,500 *oil wells* this year, 50% more than ever drilled in one year.

*Victory gardeners* are advised to plant tomatoes, sweet corn, string beans, carrots, beets, potatoes and green leafy vegetables, as these require less work and are less subject to insect troubles.

The Union of South Africa is helping in the war effort by gathering *snake venom* for antidotes.

*Vanadium*, a rare metal needed in making war weapons, may be recovered from iron ore in New York State.

The *Jackson Hole* National Monument in western Wyoming, recently established by presidential order, contains nearly 222,000 acres of land with primeval forests, beautiful scenery and wild animals native to the region.

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