



☼ * * • SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

Actually the lichen consists of two separate plants, living together so closely that the unit even reproduces itself. One plant is a fungus and the other is an alga, closely related to the green scum that sometimes appears on ponds.

Vegetation Probably Present

In the alga occurs the process of photosynthesis by which the solar rays enable the chlorophyll, the green coloring matter, to build up food materials from carbon dioxide and water. The accompanying fungus supplies minerals, and also protects the alga, so that it does not dry out.

A point against the idea that there may be lichens on Mars is that observations of the green areas which come and go on that planet with the changing seasons show that the spectrum of their reflected light is different from that of lichens and moss on earth. Rather it is more like the light from our higher green plants.

It may well be, however, that the different course of evolution on another planet may be an explanation for such variation. In fact, the presence of vegetation on Mars seems more than possible, it seems probable. But higher organisms, as far as we can judge, seem most unlikely.

Celestial Time Table for May

May	EST	
1	9:00 a.m.	Moon's distance, 251,000 miles
	10:58 p.m.	Moon in first quarter
4	early a.m.	Meteors visible from constellation of Aquarius
6	8:48 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn
8	9:00 a.m.	Mars nearest, distance 51,860,000 miles
	10:28 p.m.	Moon passes Mars
9	3:16 p.m.	Full moon
13	11:00 a.m.	Moon nearest, distance 228,400 miles
16	9:39 a.m.	Moon in last quarter
23	2:28 p.m.	New moon
29	3:00 a.m.	Mars farthest, distance 251,500 miles
31	4:46 p.m.	Moon in first quarter

Subtract one hour for CST, two hours for MST, and three for PST.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1952

TECHNOLOGY

Pint-Size Motor Packs Powerful Punch

➤ ELECTRIC MOTORS, only half as big as their conventional counterparts, have been developed to pack the same punch as their big sisters. That means a new-type motor weighing 10 pounds can do as much work as an old-type motor weighing 20 pounds.

Designed by the General Electric Co., Fort Wayne, Ind., the new fractional horsepower motors should make more motor-driven appliances available to the public because of savings in materials.

The new motor has a more effective ventilation system and uses aluminum generously in its structural parts. A special nylon insulating material is used which should not break down for 50 years.

Using a general-purpose drive, the motor will power such machines as oil burners, fans, blowers, compressors, pumps, farm equipment, air conditioners and commercial refrigeration systems.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1952

ENTOMOLOGY

Scientist Explains How Worm Gets Inside Ear of Corn

➤ NOW THAT corn-on-the-cob season is just around the corner, here's a question that may have stumped you in years past.

How is it that a beautiful ear of corn, with husk and silk apparently unmarred, can have inside it a thick, hungry worm, an inch and a half long, that has eaten out great chunks of the sweet kernels?

The corn earworm, a pest that is known to both home gardeners and commercial growers of sweet corn, sneaks into the ear when the silk has just emerged, explains Dr. Lauren D. Anderson, associate entomologist in the University of California Experiment Station at Riverside.

"The female moth of this well-known insect lays its eggs at dusk, usually on the freshly-emerged silks of the ear," he said. "Within a few days the eggs hatch into tiny larvae or worms, which feed down the silk channel and onto the grains of corn, where they rapidly grow to maturity and severely damage the tip of the ear in process."

At present, Dr. Anderson said, DDT leads the list of insecticides as the most effective and economical material for earworm control. Dusting or spraying of individual ears, begun as soon as silk appears and repeated three or four times at not more than three-day intervals, is the most effective treatment.

Science News Letter, April 26, 1952

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