

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Milk Sprays Effective Against Sugarcane Virus

➤ A MILK SPRAY has been found effective against one of the most destructive viruses of crops, sugarcane mosaic.

Whole cow's milk, sprayed directly on sugarcane and sorghum plants, prevents the destructive virus from taking a footing, Dr. Louis Anzalone Jr. of the department of plant pathology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, explained.

The virus is now controlled by the use of resistant varieties of plants, he said. But new strains of the virus are causing damage to some plants and other varieties of the plants could become important if protected.

The most effective inhibitor of infection tested by the scientist was common table milk before treatment. When mixed with parts of an infective juice extracted from an infected plant or used alone, it prevented infestation for some time after application.

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TECHNOLOGY

Atomic Plants Can Supply Power Needs in Disaster

➤ ATOMIC PLANTS could supply electrical power to an area "for many years" if transportation facilities were destroyed in a national disaster and fossil fuel shipments cut off, Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, said in New York.

He told the 1962 Nuclear Congress that this was one of the "two special advantages" of nuclear power plants. The other is that nuclear plants are clean and will not add to the smog problem in congested areas.

"Being from California, I can vouch for the importance of this advantage," Dr. Seaborg said.

One disadvantage of atomic power plants, Dr. Seaborg noted, is the difficulty of finding suitable sites for them in some areas. He suggested locating groups of reactors at some distance from populated areas on reactor "farms" as one solution.

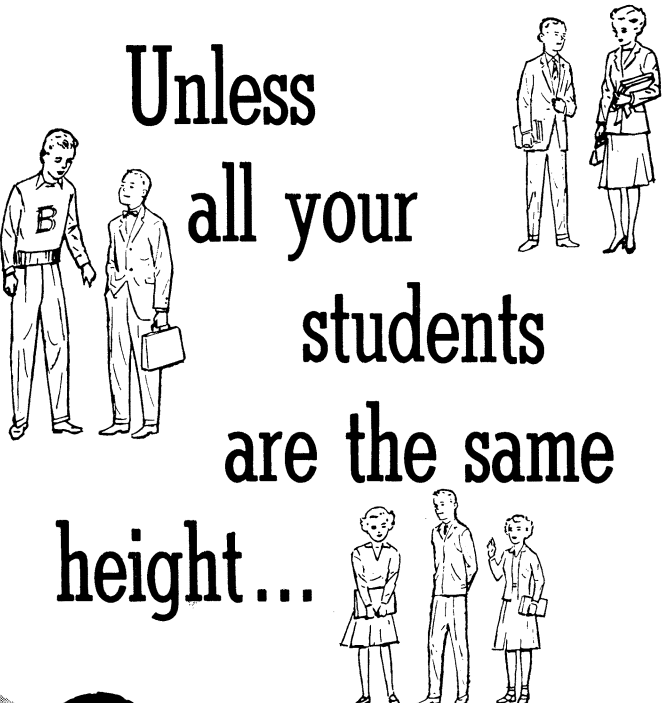
Constructing a number of reactors at one place would, however, create the problem of longer transmission of electrical power and therefore increased costs.

Dr. Seaborg noted that the "overriding factor" to be considered in the program for future civilian nuclear power development is "sound national management" of the nation's resources. Supplies of fossil fuels—coal, oil and gas—will become exhausted sometime in the future.

Therefore, sound management would require planning now to allow maximum use of fossil fuels in the many applications for which nuclear power cannot substitute. As examples, Dr. Seaborg cited the use of oil by automobiles and airplanes, and of coal in the production of chemicals.

Dr. Seaborg reported these and other facts in describing some of the approaches to civilian nuclear power being considered as part of the "new and hard look" at the role of atomic power in the U.S. economy, a special study directed by President John F. Kennedy in a letter dated March 17, 1962.

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