



bimonthly newsletter of the county of los angeles department of arboreta and botanic gardens
 prepared by the public information section

August 8, 1969

DDT

As a result of evidence indicating that chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides are causing reproductive failures in wildlife, an article in the August issue of Sunset Magazine urges readers to cease using products containing the following chemicals:

DDT	Aldrin	DDD
Diieldrin	Endrin	Heptachlor

The article also suggests that the following products be used only when absolutely necessary:

Chlordane	Lindane	Toxaphene
-----------	---------	-----------

Sunset found two other chlorinated hydrocarbons that appear to be safe, perhaps because they are not widely used. They are Tedion and Kelthane. A twelfth chlorinated hydrocarbon, Methoxychlor, has not been found responsible for pollution or wildlife damage and is considered safe.

Effective with the August issue, Sunset will no longer accept advertizing for products containing any of the six banned insecticides. Recent revisions of Sunset gardening books list substitutes for chlorinated hydrocarbons, and revisions in progress will eliminate nearly all such products.

The August article explains that other chemicals can be used to control pests, the main difference being that they are not as effective as long as the chlorinated hydrocarbons (long life is a prime objection to the use of DDT and other chemicals) and may have to be applied more often. A chart in Sunset lists what insecticide ingredients should be used against what pests.

Even though DDT has been a hero in eliminating insect pests, some of which carry disease, it has been found that many animals (the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, brown pelican to name a few) have large quantities of DDT in their systems and eggs, and are incapable of reproduction in some areas. Biologist are convinced that these two facts are enough to indict DDT. DDT is known to accumulate in humans also, but there is not yet evidence of biological damage.

Some manufacturers and packagers of DDT and

related chemicals maintain that the evidence against DDT is inconclusive, and the biologists are merely making allegations; but Sunset feels that in view of the evidence we cannot afford to debate the question while continuing to use DDT. In use a short 27 years, DDT is now found in increasing quantities around the world in the air, soil, water, plant and animal life.

After receiving information from a battery of 56 biologists, ecologists, zoologists, entomologists, chemists, insecticide manufacturers and packagers, physicians, and home gardeners, Sunset urges its readers to stop using DDT and associated chlorinated hydrocarbons.

STAFF

Three long-term employees have left the Department and have left vacancies that will be difficult to fill. On July 31, Nora Talmon retired after 12 years of service. On August 25, Marie Castleman, with the Department since 1959, will retire. Lorene Johnson, eight years in the Education Division, has transferred to Personnel Dept. The best wishes of the Department go with these three valued employees.

Taking over from Nora is Diana Rodriguez, if you can find her among the stacked-up purchase orders.

Bill Ponder brings the Custodial Unit to full strength. The resignations of three As-Needed Tour Guides over the last three months leaves the Information Section short-handed again. Resigning were Keith Fisher, Melvin Foster and Richard Sabados.

With these position changes is a change of status of another type. Our Librarian is now Peggy (Mrs. Donald F.) Smith. Congratulations from the staff.

LACEA REPRESENTATIVES TO BE ELECTED

LACEA Representative Jack McCaskill informs us there will be an election of LACEA Representative from the Department.

Any employee wishing to serve should submit his name to Jack McCaskill by 4pm Monday August 18.



1960. "DDT [August 8, 1969]." *Delascan* 1969, 1.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/164531>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/149063>

Holding Institution

Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library

Sponsored by

Missouri Botanical Garden

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Permission to digitize granted by rights holder

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.