

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

serve
In 344
HOMEMAKERS' CHAT
FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Tuesday, October 17, 1944

QUESTION BOX

A
How protect dried beans and peas from weevils?
How Prevent Fire in Fall Gardens?
How Remove Milkweed Stains?

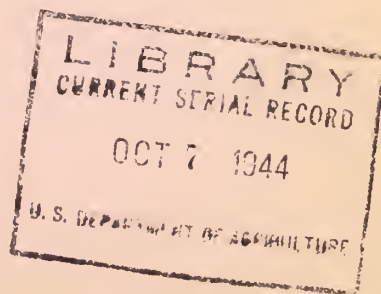
ANSWERS FROM:

Entomologists, foresters
and home economists of the
U.S. Department of Agric-
ulture.

Once again it's time for your question box. And here's a letter from a Victory gardener. Yes, gardeners are still plying us with questions even though the season is about over. This gardener says that four rows of beans have supplied the family with enough dried beans for the winter if she can protect them from weevils. And she wants to know some simple method she can use at home to treat the beans from weevils. A timely question. A lot of us are storing beans and black-eyed peas from our own gardens this fall.

Entomologists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture tell us there are three easy methods of killing weevils in beans or black-eyed peas. You'll find either of the first two methods convenient if you're storing just a few pounds, not more than a half a bushel of the beans.

In one, you kill the weevils by spreading the beans in the oven and heating them to a temperature of 130 to 145 degrees for an hour. In the other, you dip the beans in boiling water for one minute. Drop the cloth bag with the beans in the boiling water. Swish it around so the hot water sterilizes each bean. One minute's your time limit on this. Then spread the beans out in the sun to dry. After drying, pack the beans in glass jars or tins with tight lids and store them in a dry place. Beans or peas treated by these two methods aren't likely to germinate well, so don't plan to use them for seed next year.



If you have 2 or 3 bushels of dried beans or peas, ask your county agent about fumigating them with carbon disulfide.

Since we observe Fire Prevention week so recently, I suppose we're more conscious of fire hazards than usual. And that reminds me of some fire prevention suggestions from the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture of special interest to Victory Gardeners.

Forest Service men have had a lot of experience fighting fires, you know. And they have many practical suggestions on fire prevention. They advise you to burn your garden trash in the evening hours when the sun is down.

Before you light the fire, find out from your fire department whether a burning permit is necessary. If there's dry grass around, you may need to dig a fire lane, three or four feet wide and down to mineral soil.

No matter how quiet the final embers appear, don't leave the fire until all of them are out. The big bonfire of dried vines and stalks symbolizes the close of the garden season. Don't let it be destructive.

And now, we have time for a final question. The mother of two patriotic school children who are gathering milkweed floss says, "The children's clothes have some stains which I believe have come from the milkweed. How can these stains be removed?"

Textile specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture say that milkweed stains are inconspicuous and almost colorless at first. Untreated stains turn a rust or light-brown color with time. Or they'll turn if you wash them with soap or apply heat to them. Then they're hard to get out.

Here's an easy way to remove fresh milkweed stains. Soak the garment in cool water for two or three hours. Every now and then, rub the cloth between your hands to loosen the stain. Then wash the garment with soap and water. You may find a gummy residue, where the stain was. Don't think it's there to stay. Carbon

tetrachloride will take this out.

And as for the set brown stains, you may remove, or at least lighten them, if you'll soak them in cool water thoroughly. It may be necessary to try stronger measures. Try an application of glycerine. If this doesn't work, try a dilute acetic acid or strong vinegar application on the spots. If the stains don't yield to this treatment, then try a bleaching agent. The acids and bleaching agent may take out the dye, so you'd better try them on a scrap of the material before you apply them to the stains. You may get a copy of a bulletin on "Stain Removal" by writing the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

#

