

## Historic, archived document

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



# homemakers' chat

FOR USE IN NON-COMMERCIAL BROADCASTS ONLY

U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

Thursday, April 9, 1942.

QUESTION BOX:

Why work in clothes designed for job?  
That desserts take least sugar?  
How fumigate a trunk for clothes moths?  
Do moths lay all their eggs before they fly?

ANSWERS FROM:

Home economists and poultry  
specialists of the U. S.  
Department of Agriculture.

--ooOoo--

Up for answer today are three letters from the week's mailbag. One letter asks about clothes to wear for housework or gardening. Another letter inquires about desserts that call for little or no sugar. And a third brings up a poultry question, connected with the Food-for-Freedom program. Answers to these letters come from home economists and poultry specialists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The first letter says: "I have been reading about some new work clothes for women designed by the Government. I don't understand the need for special clothes for work. Nobody sees you anyway in jobs like gardening or housework. Isn't it more economical to wear out old clothes working around home rather than to have special work clothes?"

Clothing specialists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture reply that although sometimes you do save by wearing old clothes for housework or gardening, it depends on the clothes. Clothes not designed for work wear are seldom practical for that purpose. Sometimes they have long flowing sleeves, or a loose scarf, or sash ends, or some other part that will catch on things, or dip in dish-water, or be a fire hazard working around the stove. Or the dress may get in your way when you're working and make you work more slowly. Sometimes the material soils easily and makes lots of needless washing-- or you wear the dress soiled. Clothes like this are no help to any job. They're inefficient and often dangerous. But, aside



from these considerations, don't you like to be neat, trim, and businesslike at your work? Don't you like to feel dressed appropriately for what you're doing?

Pattern companies are now making patterns for all of the designs for work clothes released by the clothing specialists of the Department. All these designs slip on easily, fit comfortably for active work, with roominess for stooping and reaching. They have practical pockets, placed right where you want them, and no parts to catch. Some have skirts, and some are trousered outfits or work aprons. One design is a divided skirt dress, or "culotte", for women who like the convenience of trousers and the looks of a dress. The materials selected for these designs are easy to launder. Some of the fabrics suggested are shower-proofed for outdoor wet work.

So much for war-time work clothes problems. Next question is on war-time desserts. The letter asks: "What desserts can I use instead of those like caramel and butterscotch that take a lot of sugar?"

The answer is fruit—and more fruit—according to the home economists. Fruit generally contains its own sugar and characteristic flavor. You can have fresh fruit of every kind in its season, from the first strawberries of spring to grapes and peaches in the fall. Also, when you can't get fresh fruits, you can have dried, canned and frozen fruit.

Go light, of course, on fruit desserts that take much sugar, such as rhubarb or sour-cherry pie or a fruit pudding that calls for a good deal of sweetening. But you can have fruit shortcakes, with crushed fruit poured over biscuits. Fruit gelatin desserts don't require much sugar. In fact, you can sometimes sweeten them with the sirup from canned fruits. You can replace sugar with honey—spoon for spoon, when sweetening fresh stewed or baked fruits, or you can replace half the sugar with corn sirup. Corn sirup is less sweet than sugar, and the half-and-half combination is not quite as sweet as when you use all sugar, but most likely it's sweet enough.



Have you tried any of the new frozen fruits, either sliced or puréed? In some places you can get frozen puréed fruit pulps in brick form like ice cream, and you slice them into individual portions. Or thaw them and pour them over ice cream, blanc mange, Spanish cream, junket, or shortcake.

The first warm weather always brings questions about moths, and this week is no exception. One writer says:

"My sister brought a trunk down from the attic and found it alive with insects. Apparently the moth larvae scattered all over her house and she had a great deal of trouble. I am sending for two boxes that have been stored a long time. What precautions should I take to avoid my sister's experience?"

The entomologists say the best thing to do is to fumigate the boxes with carbon disulphide before you take anything out of them. Do not scatter the contents about the room where you have placed the trunks or boxes, or the larvae will crawl about and get into other things, as in your sister's case. Carbon disulphide is a liquid fumigant which you can buy at drugstores or feed stores. Use ordinary caution to avoid fire hazard when fumigating with carbon disulphide. Keep lighted cigarettes or cigars away, and have no fire near in any form while you are fumigating.

For a trunk about 21 by 20 by 42 inches put 3 tablespoonfuls of carbon disulphide in a pie tin or sauce pan and set it on top of the garments in the trunk. Close the trunk tightly, sealing the cracks. Leave the fumigant in it from 12 to 24 hours, before you open up the trunk.

Here's another question about moths. "Is it true that moths never fly unless all their eggs have been laid?"

No, the entomologists of the Department reply. This idea has been definitely proved untrue. An adult moth doesn't usually live more than 2 to 4 weeks, but during that time she will lay 100 to 300 eggs, at intervals. She deposits them in wool, hair, fur and feathers, in the nap of clothing, in the pile of upholstery, in lint-filled cracks in the floor. The larvae hatch in 4 to 8 days in summer, take longer in colder weather.

That's all the questions for this week.

