IN SHORT, IN HORT

GARDENING...AMERICA'S FAVORITE LEISURE ACTIVITY

Gardening ranks as America’s number-one outdoor leisure activity for the third year in a row. According to the 1986–87 National Gardening Survey just released by the National Gardening Association based in Burlington, Vt., more American households participate in gardening (44%) than jogging (28%), playing golf (12%), fishing (33%), tennis (12%), bicycling (35%), and other outdoor leisure activities.

The 1986–87 National Gardening Survey shows that 44% of America’s households have vegetable and/or flower gardens.

The most popular gardening activities include lawn care, with 51 million households participating, and indoor houseplant growing, with 36 million households participating. Flowers were grown by 39 million households, up from 1985’s 36 million households. Vegetables are grown by 34 million households, up from 33 million in 1985.

Retail sales in the gardening industry were up in 1986, totaling $14.206 billion, an 18% increase over the $12.026 billion spent in 1985.

"‘Trends in gardeners’ ages are changing,’” noted Charles Scott, president of the National Gardening Association. "‘There are more ‘baby boomers’—30 to 40 year olds—participating today than in past years,”’ said Scott. The buyers of gardening products and information tends to be in this age group. In 1986, nearly half of the $14.206 billion was spent by the "‘boomers’”.

Another shift in gardening trends has occurred in people’s motivation for gardening. Three years ago people said the main reason they gardened was to save money. Nowadays, fresher tasting vegetables, better-quality food, and better nutrition and health come out as top reasons for food gardening.

Gardeners bought their supplies from garden centers or retail nurseries (46%), hard-ware stores (36%), mass merchandisers or discount stores (28%), feed/seed stores (24%), supermarket/dog stores (22%), home centers (16%), and by mail-order (10%).

The 1986–87 National Gardening Survey compiles the latest statistics and information on gardening. It also reflects trends in gardening, the economy, and American lifestyles. The survey is a valuable research tool for marketers, sociologists, economists, and those in government and the gardening industry. A fact sheet is available by sending $1 to cover postage and handling to National Gardening Survey, 180 Flynn Ave., Burlington, VT 05401.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

The Second International Symposium on the Performance of Protective Clothing was held at the Tampa Hyatt Regency on 19–22 Jan. 1987. Advances in methodology of measurement and identification of primary sites of exposure were described. Some sessions dealt with dermal toxicity and personal protection from pesticides, and focused on the protection from exposure of various protective materials and apparel designs. Field testing results were provided of protective clothing and of worker acceptance. Although almost complete protection can be afforded by some of the clothing designs and mate-

AFRICANIZED BEES

These aggressive bees, expected to reach Texas and Arizona by 1988–92, produce little honey and are more likely to sting than European strains common in the United States. ARS has developed easy-to-use identification tests so field technicians can distinguish Africanized bees from other strains. ARS is working with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service experts to develop a barrier zone in Mexico to stop them from spreading into the United States. This barrier plan will include trapping bees, baiting hives to kill Africanized swarms, close monitoring and inspection of hives, and other measures.

Agricultural Research
Vol. 34, No. 10

BUD REST OF DECIDUOUS FRUIT TREES

Breaking bud rest on delayed foliation of deciduous fruit trees is not only due to chilling temperature during the winter but also to hot summers and warm autumns. Winter rainfall also has an influence. Strong buds have a higher chilling requirement than weak buds, and flower buds require less chilling than vegetative buds. Low-nitrogen-level trees require more chilling. Predicting when rest is broken in the spring is important in climates where specific chilling requirements have not been met and a decision has to be made whether or not to apply DNOC oil spray to induce budbreak. Delayed foliation affects growth and fruiting. In South Africa, the Richardson or Utah Model for predicting when rest is broken is being tested. To date it has not been decisive enough, according to C.F. Peereboom Voller. Du Toit-Frugte, Ceres, South Africa, in his review article “Predicting Rest-Braking: Principles and Problems” in the August issue of Deciduous Fruit Grower. (The paper also includes literature on the subject.) The matter is very complex, requiring the integration of many factors. For example, fluctuating temperatures during the relatively warm winters in South Africa need to be considered more than they have in the model.

Deciduous Fruit Grower
36(8):302–308. 1986