

# Business Newsletter . . .

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## Farm Land Values Rise

Farm real estate values continue to increase according to recent USDA reports. Farm land prices show little signs of the agricultural depression feared in some quarters. Illinois farm land has **increased in value about 32%** during the past 5 years. For U.S., values were up about 2% this spring over last year. About 70% of land buyers are farmers and 30% are nonfarmers; about 62% of farm land purchased last year was bought on credit.

## Farm Visitors to U.S.S.R.

A nonofficial committee to represent American agriculture has been selected to visit the U.S.S.R. this summer. The committee to be **privately sponsored** will be in form of an exchange with Russia which is sending a group to study American agricultural methods this summer. Trip is result of editorial in Iowa paper commenting on the forthcoming visit of Russians to study Iowa farming methods. Editorial suggested that exchange of agricultural people would lead to **greater understanding**.

## Phosphate Walkout

Strike of AFL chemical workers against Florida phosphate producers is **spreading**. Strike began June 1 against Coronet Phosphate, Armour Fertilizer Works, Virginia Carolina Chemical, American Cyanamid, International Minerals, and American Agricultural Chemical Co. Workers have now struck the plant of Royster Guano Co., bringing number of struck plants to seven in the Bartow area. **Two other producers have been threatened** with strikes: Davison Chemical and Swift & Co. Union is demanding wage boost of 8.5 cents per hour, but industry is offering only 4.4 cents.

## Wheat Referendum

Whatever the outcome of the referendum on wheat marketing quotas, the final vote will probably have **little effect on prices** for 1956 wheat. If marketing quotas are defeated there may be some decline in wheat prices in 1956 as the harvest approaches. According to L. F. Stice, University of Illinois farm economist, fairly strong wheat prices this year can be expected because of two factors: 1955 production may be less than consumption; Government will own almost all the carryover stock and can't sell it for less than support price. **Long term outlook** for wheat, however, is for **decline in prices** due to expanded production and possibility of lowered price supports.

## Spotlight

- Recent announcements by FDA on grain contamination imposes new responsibilities on storage operators and also opens a big market for fumigant type insecticides (p. 556)
- American capital may soon be investing huge sums in Canadian potash deposits. Result might be that North American would be a world exporter (p. 558)
- Ammonia boom has brought problems concerning safety and storage. Fifteen pound differential on safe pressure points up differences in attitudes of producers and distributors (p. 559)
- Southern farmers are finding new opportunities with crops which were unknown here 50 years ago (p. 561)
- About 90% of the potash produced in the U. S. is in the form of KCl. However, a big demand exists for sulfate forms of potash (p. 562)

*International's New Triple Superphosphate so quickly received*

# unprecedented acceptance

**I**N the fertilizer industry, few products have ever generated such ready and enthusiastic approval as International's new "fine-texture" Triple Superphosphate. When this new fertilizer ingredient was announced the first of the year, acceptance was immediate and widespread.

We at International appreciate your keen interest in this improved Triple Super . . . and your orders for it. They make the years of research and investment in developing this new product

even more gratifying. If you have not yet had opportunity to see this new International product, we invite you to write the Phosphate Chemicals Division for samples and quotations.

Your first glance will tell you why its fine, uniform and virtually dust-free texture gives such improved results — promotes better granulation in high analysis plant foods — reduces the need to grind before mixing — assures thorough and more complete ammoniation.



**INTERNATIONAL MINERALS & CHEMICAL CORPORATION**

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# Research Newsletter . . .

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## Leaf Fall

Auxin, plant growth hormone, controls **fall of leaves and fruit**, according to a new theory advanced by a team of botanists at UCLA. Auxin content is normally higher in leaf than in stem; when hormone level in stem goes up, leaves fall. Implications of research extend beyond botanical laboratory, may find application in improving **cotton defoliation**. Techniques also improving methods for regulation **fruit drop**.

## Liquid Nitrogen Application

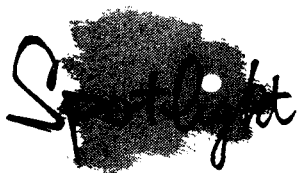
An inexpensive unit for application of low pressure nitrogen solutions has been developed by USDA. Device will enable **small farmers** to take advantage of lower unit costs of fertilizer offered by nitrogen solutions. Relatively expensive machinery previously available has meant that only operators of large farms could afford to purchase application equipment. Break-even point for owning application equipment costing \$100 compared with custom application is about 12 acres of annual use. Purchase of application equipment costing \$200 is economical if 22 acres are treated per year. New pump unit, weighing about 25 pounds will be **economical purchase for farmers** applying liquid nitrogen to **22 acres**.

## Molybdenum

Role of molybdenum in plant nutrition is being unraveled. Fact that the metal was essential as a micronutrient has been known for some time but only recently has its function been understood. At recent micronutrient symposium, sponsored by Johns Hopkins University, researchers discussed key function in **nitrogen utilization** by plants. Function is not completely understood but molybdenum seems essential for nitrogen utilization by plants. Amounts necessary vary with form of nitrogen, **more is needed** for utilization of **nitrate** nitrogen than for utilization of **ammonia** nitrogen.

## Spray in Evening

After-hours spraying is recommended by the USDA for control of stored tobacco insects. Usual practice in industry has been to apply pyrethrum sprays or aerosols during the day. Research studies have now demonstrated that **most of the insects are in flight between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.** Thousands could be caught in traps after 8 P.M. in warehouses which had been sprayed earlier in the day. Best time to tobacco spray warehouses is period between 6 P.M. and midnight.



- A simple small-scale shake flask apparatus for fermentation of yeasts and molds has been developed. The setup should prove valuable for carrying out a number of simultaneous fermentations (p. 606)
- Nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers not only increase the yields of barley but also improve the malting quality of the grain (p. 609)
- A colorimetric technique for determination of biuret can be used for determinations of urea in fertilizer mixtures (p. 615)
- A number of different fertilizer bases can be used for preparation of insecticide-fertilizer mixtures containing aldrin (p. 619)
- Excellent control of fireblight on apples and pears has been obtained by three treatments with streptomycin at a level of 100 p.p.m. A streptomycin-Terramycin combination gives the same control results as streptomycin alone (p. 623)