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hopes will ultimately have a nationwide impact, play a big part in his efforts.

"Until recently we've had trouble with baits," Pickens told National Geographic News Service. "Some have contained dangerous ingredients, others have either been smelly, costly or difficult to prepare. But now I think we've come up with a winner."

The experimental concoction contains sugar, baking powder, yeast, honey, dried blood or fish meal and banana, flavoring. Two one-inch cubes of the bait, shaped in an ordinary ice tray, are placed in a pan of water beneath a cylindrical aluminum trap. Once inside, the insects fly upward through a narrow cone, drawn by the sunlight that shines through the plexiglass top of the trap.

They can't escape and starve to death within a day. As many as 20,000 flies can be captured in the trap before it has to be emptied.

A little knowledge of fly behavior makes traps and baits more effective. For instance, Pickens says, the insects cruise about three feet above the ground and like to fly along the edges of shrubs, fences or rows of trees. Inside buildings they tend to go down near the floor and patrol the perimeter of a room. They have been known to cover five miles a day in search of food.

Laboratory tests have convinced Pickens flies can discern some differences in colors and have a natural affinity for light. The "bright white" "Beltsville pyramid," another trap

devised by the entomologist, shows great promise and is being tested at farms in the region.

Measuring two feet square at the base and standing two feet tall, the inexpensive plywood structure is covered with sheets of plastic treated with an adhesive that can snare 3,000 flies. The pyramid works better than other shapes because its surface reflects light uniformly, Pickens explains.

Scientists at the center are working on a weatherproof insecticide, harmless to animals, that would coat the pyramids. It would eliminate the nuisance of having to replace the sticky sheets when they become covered with flies.

Richard L. Pugh, a Highland, Md., dairy and grain farmer, credits the cylindrical traps with reducing fly-borne pinkeys disease among his heifers last year and he has high hopes for the pyramids, which he has placed near his barns.

"Flies have always been a major nuisance for the farmer," he says. "In some cases they make life so miserable for cows that milk production is affected."

The demand for an efficient fly trap extends far beyond farms and suburbs, says Normand F. Reed of Hopdale, owner of the only company that makes the cylindrical traps.

The devices have been purchased by owners of restaurants, nursing homes, landfills and ice cream parlors. "The best location for many traps is right by a dumpster," says Reed. "It's an incredible fly-breeding ground."



Cosmos
It's late summer and the cosmos are in bloom.

Having a berry good summer, thank you

When we moved to the country we planted a vegetable garden, but we owed a debt of gratitude to previous owners of our house for the raspberry patch they planted in front of the chicken house and the blackberry patch by the cellar door.

Our first summer in Heath, when we had barely shaken off the city dust, we could go out back on a dewy July morning and pick luscious red raspberries right into our cereal bowls. What a luxurious start to the day.

In August, when the raspberries are done, the blackberries start to ripen. That blackberry patch in front of the cellar door is a mixed blessing; we have to keep hacking away at the ferocious brambles to keep the way clear for firewood, but how sweet to gorge on these juicy berries while picking quarts that will be made into a clear jelly.

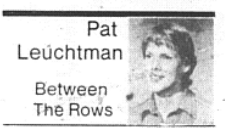
The second summer we planted several highbush blueberries which are now bearing well. However, I've learned a lot about tending blueberries and this year we are going to move some of them so they will be grouped better. Right now, I'm engaged in a losing battle with my hens. There are more of them than of me and they have more time to scratch away the fertilizer and mulch than I do to rake it up and replenish it. If I replant some of the bushes so the whole group can be netted I'll be able to keep the hens away — and the greedy birds of the air — and keep the bushes better fertilized and mulched.

One of the main reasons I like berries is that, beyond tasting so good, they are easy to take care of, producing for many years.

Unfortunately, even though they do so well, I don't know what kind of raspberries I have, but Lewis Hill of Vermont, a real expert on cold climate gardening, recommends Boyne Chief, Newburg, Madawaska and Taylor. Amber is a good yellow-pink variety and John Robertson a hardy black raspberry.

I have two berry patches, but if you are starting out with plants, plant them in rows. You'll be able to mulch the paths and they will be much easier to care for and pick. Not that there is too much to do. Raspberries and blackberries bear on canes that grew the previous year. After fruiting the old canes dry up and die. Each year the old canes should be cut down and removed. I don't do much other pruning, but I cut the top foot off the raspberry canes in September. This makes the cane grow sturdily and will control the amount of damage done by snow and wind during the winter. The blackberry canes are so strong and vicious they don't even need that much help.

In late fall or early spring I fertilize with autumn leaves, chicken house cleanings and compost if I have it to spare. One friend had a gorgeous raspberry patch for years and the only fertilizer he ever used was leaves. Do not fertilize in mid-summer or you'll encourage tender



Pat Leuchtman
Between The Rows
Right now, I'm engaged in a losing battle with my hens over the blueberry bushes. There are more of them than of me and they have more time to scratch away the fertilizer and mulch than I do to rake it up and replenish it.

growth that will just be killed during our New England winters. Highbush blueberries are heavy feeders with many roots located just below the soil. These roots are easily

damaged so it is more important that blueberries be fertilized and kept mulched. I fertilize with rotted manure; they like nitrogen. Acid mulches like sawdust, pine needles or oak leaves will help maintain soil acidity while they protect and fertilize.

Acid soil is the other main ingredient to success with blueberries. This is not usually a problem in New England, but if your soil has a pH of more than 5 you will have difficulty growing blueberries. Some people till in aluminum sulfate or sulfur to make the soil acid. It's a lot of work to maintain acidity if you have a neutral soil.

The only pruning I do is to cut out dead branches and spindly ends.

It's easy to find blueberries in the stores and they are not too expensive. Blueberries are not especially fragile and they keep and ship well. They will also ripen a few at a time on your bush and they don't need to be picked the instant they are ripe. If you have a surplus, make them into jam or syrup or just pop a bag of them into the freezer. A very cooperative berry. I have Blue Ray, Blue Crop, Earliblue and Berkeley, early, mid and late season varieties. Raspberries are much more frag-

ile and they don't keep. This explains why they are so pricey even when you can find them and why there is a real economic incentive to grow them yourself. You can eat them fresh, make them into jam, or, if you don't have any time when they are ripe, just pack them into freezer containers and freeze them until your schedule is more accommodating.

You almost never see blackberries in the store, but their flavor is full and tart. They don't keep, although they are easily frozen without any preparation. Just pack them into your freezer containers and wait for a winter night when you can turn them into a blackberry crumble — and remember the rich days of summer.

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