

*The
Connecticut
Agricultural
Experiment
Station,
New Haven*

Inspection of
Commercial
Fertilizers 1994

BY MARY JANE INCORVIA MATTINA

*Bulletin 927
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From January 1, 1994 through December 31, 1994 the Department of Analytical Chemistry analyzed 213 fertilizer samples to determine that the label guarantee on the product is in compliance with State of Connecticut Regulations. Included were samples for both commercial and household application. Determinations were for the macronutrients nitrogen, phosphorus (as P_2O_5), and potassium (as K_2O), and, in some cases, for selected micronutrients.

Forty-three different manufacturers' products were represented in the inspection. Of the 213 samples fifty-four samples (25.3%) were found to be deficient in one or more of the analyzed parameters. A sample is considered unsatisfactory if the value for a parameter is below the guaranteed value by more than the permissible percentage established by the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials. In particular, fourteen samples (6.5%) were deficient in nitrogen, thirteen (6.1%) were deficient in phosphorus, and twenty-seven (12.7%) were deficient in potassium. A deficiency in one of the macronutrients is indicated by a minus (-) sign next to the "Found%" value in Table 1.

The samples were collected by Alton VanDyke and John Schneider of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. The analyses were performed by Craig Musante and Mamie Pyles under the supervision of Dr. David Stilwell.

Mary Jane Incorvia Mattina
Head, Department of Analytical Chemistry

Table 1. Analytical Results for the 1994 Fertilizer Samples.

	N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O	
	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%
AGRITURF, INC.						
Agriturf South Windsor Custom 26-9-18	26	27.3	9	10.2	18	14.1-
Agriturf South Windsor Custom 25-8-17	25	24.9	8	10.4	17	15.7-
Agri-Turf Seed & Sod Starter 14-21-16	14	15.7	21	22.3	16	16.0
Agri-Turf Step Three Premium Summer Fertilizer 25-3-6 with Sevin	25	25.0	3	3.9	6	5.9
AGWAY, INC.						
Agway Bulk Blend 33-5-11	33	32.9	5	6.9	11	12.6
Agway Bulk Blend 28-8-16	28	27.7	8	9.8	16	16.3
Agway Bulk Blend 0-11-44*	0		11	14.1	44	42.9-
Agway Bulk Blend 0-13-41	0		13	17.1	41	40.6
Agway Bulk Blend 29-11-11	29	29.8	11	12.7	11	11.4
Agway Bulk Blend 24-12-18	24	21.5-	12	17.8	18	17.2
Agway Bulk Blend 3-16-39*	3	0.8-	16	18.3	39	39.5
Agway Bulk Blend 27-10-15	27	24.1-	10	14.3	15	18.2
Agway Bulk Blend 24-12-18	24	24.3	12	16.2	18	17.0
Agway Bulk Blend 23-12-18	23	17.3-	12	16.8	18	22.7
Agway Bulk Blend 27-6-19	27	26.3	6	7.3	19	23.0
Agway Bulk Blend 24-13-16	24	26.1	13	14.6	16	14.8-
Agway Bulk Blend 26-0-26	26	25.0-	0		26	28.6
Agway Bulk Blend 24-13-16	24	24.1	13	13.2	16	18.7
Agway Bulk Blend 30-0-21	30	29.8	0		21	23.0
Agway Bulk Blend 32-19-0	32	33.3	19	20.7	0	
Agway Bulk Blend 24-12-17	24	23.4	12	11.8	17	22.2
Agway Bulk Blend 7-30-22	7	7	30	31.7	22	25
Agway Bulk Blend 24-12-17	24	27.5	12	15.1	17	18.8
Agway Bulk 23-12-18	23	22.9	12	14.0	18	21.2
Agway Bulk 0-15-39	0		15	21.6	39	39.4
Agway Bulk 21-10-21	21	20.1	10	12.3	21	24.2
Agway Bulk 18-13-24	18	17.9	13	13.8	24	25.9
Agway Bulk 24-13-16	24	24.8	13	14.6	16	16.3
Agway Bulk 28-10-14	28	28.9	10	9.5	14	17.0
Agway Bulk 18-12-25	18	18.2	12	14.1	25	26.6
Agway Bulk 23-12-18	23	18.1-	12	16.2	18	24.5
Agway Bulk 23-11-17	23	24.0	11	16.1	17	13.4-
Agway Blend-Rite 5-10-10	5	6.3	10	11.8	10	9.6
Agway Blend-Rite 15-8-12	15	14.3	8	10.0	12	13.9
Agway Nutri-Bond Ammoniated Fertilizer						
Corn Starter 10-20-10	10	10.4	20	19.6	10	9.7
Agway Blend-Rite 10-20-20	10	10.1	20	21.4	20	19.2
Agway Early Edge Crop Starter 13-13-13	13	12.8	13	13.6	13	12.4
Agway Grassroots Lawn Fertilizer 27-2-11	27	27.5	2	2.3	11	8.6-
Agway Greenlawn 32-3-5	32	33.6	3	3.4	5	5.7
Agway Greenlawn Turf Starter 11-25-11	11	11.0	25	26.1	11	9.8-
Agway Nature's Way Organic Lawn Food 7-5-5	7	8.5	5	6.9	5	6.5
Agway Super Garden Plant Food 8-16-16	8	8.0	16	17.2	16	16.3
Agway Blend-Rite 5-10-10	5	5.2	10	8.8-	10	8.9-
Agway Fall to Winter Lawn Fertilizer 26-2-12	26	24.3-	2	4.1	12	14.0
Agway Blend-Rite 10-10-10	10	9.9	10	11.5	10	8.9-

Table 1. Analytical Results for the 1994 Fertilizer Samples (continued).

	N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O	
	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%
Agway Summer to Fall Lawn Fertilizer 29-2-9	29	28.8	2	4.2	9	10.0
Agway Nature's Way Organic Plant Food 4-5-4	4	4.1	5	6.8	4	4.0
Agway Blend-Rite 15-15-15	15	15.0	15	14.7	15	14.5
Agway Super Garden Plant Food 8-16-16	8	8.8	16	17.2	16	16.2
Agway Spring #1 Crabgrass Prevention & Lawn Fertilizer 22-4-9	22	23.6	4	4.9	9	10.5
Agway Blend-Rite 15-8-12	15	16.0	8	9.8	12	12.5
Agway Professional Hi-Nitrogen 30-5-10 Fertilizer	30	31.5	5	5.1	10	10.7
Agway Garden Plant Food 5-10-5	5	6.1	10	13.4	5	5.5
Agway Nutri-Bond Ammoniated 10-20-20	10	10.6	20	18.7-	20	21.0
Agway Early Edge Crop Starter Fertilizer 13-13-13	13	13.3	13	13.7	13	13.1
Agway 10-20-10 Early Edge Corn Starter	10	10.5	20	22.7	10	10.1
Agway Bulk Blend 18-11-25	18	17.5	11	13.1	25	27.0
A. H. HOFFMAN, INC.						
Hoffman All Natural Flower & Garden Food 7-5-1	7	7.6	5	5.3	1	1.7
Hoffman Plant & Shrub Starter, 5-20-10	5	7.8	20	6.0-	10	4.6-
Hoffman Azalea & Evergreen Food 10-4-6	10	10.9	4	5.0	6	6.0
Hoffman Flower Food, 7-7-7	7	8.5	7	8.3	7	9.5
Hoffman Super Manure, 4-2-2	4	4.5	2	3.7	2	3.3
ALASKA FISH FERTILIZER CO.						
Alaska Fish Fertilizer 5-1-1	5	4.9	1	1.04	1	0.81
BIG RIVER ZINC CORP.						
Cozinco Sales 31 Plus Zinc Sulfate Monohydratrace nutrient additives						
CADWELL & JONES						
C&J Tuckahoe Custom 28-7-14	28	30.3	7	9.4	14	13.5
C&J Specialty 15-10-10	15	17.9	10	12.5	10	11.5
C&J Specialty 10-10-10	10	16.2	10	15.2	10	8.6-
C&J Surge 19-3-7 Turf Fertilizer with TEAM	19	20.1	3	5.2	7	15.2
C&J Super Surge 20-10-10	20	22.5	10	13.1	10	13.7
C&J Specialty 10-20-10	10	10.1	20	22.6	10	8.1-
C&J 6-3-6	6	4.8-	3	2.4-	6	7.1
C&J Specialty 18-23-12	18	18.3	23	23.5	12	13.0
C&J Specialty 20-4-8	20	21.3	4	5.2	8	7.0-
C&J Surge 7-7-7	7	8.6	7	-3.5	7	10.5
C&J Specialty 5-10-10	5	7.5	10	15.8	10	15.2
C&J Specialty 10-6-4	10	17.4	6	9.9	4	4.3
C&J Specialty 20-3-20	20	20.7	3	2.39	20	25.3
CHEVRON CHEMICAL CO, ORTHO CONSUMER PRODS.						
Ortho House Plant Food 5-10-5	5	4.6	10	10.9	5	5.6
Ortho Up-Start Vit. B-1 Plant Starter 3-10-3	3	3.3	10	12.1	3	3.2
Ra-Pid Gro Plant Food 20-20-20	20	21.1	20	21.2	20	21.4
Ra-Pid Gro Tomato Vegetable Food 18-21-21	18	18.6	21	24.1	21	19.0-
Ortho Up-Start Plant Starter	5	5.9	15	17.2	5	5.3
Ortho Bulb Food 4-12-8	4	5.0	12	14.3	8	6.9-
Ortho General Purpose Plant Food 10-10-10	10	12.7	10	12.3	10	7.4-

Table 1. Analytical Results for the 1994 Fertilizer Samples (continued).

	N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O	
	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%
Ortho Tomato Food 10-12-6	10	12.4	12	13.8	6	5.7
CROP PRODUCTION SERVICES						
CPS Mulnite Farms 5-5.7-10.5, Shade Tobacco	5	4.9	5.7	6.05	10.5	12.6
CPS Wlodkowski Farm 10-6-12, Broadleaf Mix	10	15.8	6	9.1	12	10.2-
CPS Potato Fertilizer 12-15-15	12	15.9	15	17.4	15	15.1
CPS 0-10-40	0		10	13.5	40	38.7
Village Green X-Mas Tree Mix 18-11-17	18	19.9	11	11.6	17	16.1
CPS 10-8-10 Tobacco Fertilizer	10	10.1	8	11.8	10	11.6
CPS 16.3-8.2-16.3 Mass Mix	16.3	16.4	8.2	7.9	16.3	18.4
Village Green Professional Turf Food 20-10-10	20	26.4	10	12.8	10	12.0
Village Green Professional Turf Food 10-10-10	10	15.3	10	17.8	10	14.0
CPS 10-10-10	10	6.8-	10	9.8	10	8.4-
CPS 26-0-26	26	26.6	0		26	24.8
CPS 24-12-18	24	25.4	12	13.6	18	15.5-
Nutralene Supreme 22-0-22 N-K Special	22	22.8	0		22	24.1
CPS, 12-13-16 with S	12	10.6-	13	9.7-	16	10.7-
CPS 5-10-10	5	4.8	10	10.4	10	11.4
CPS Village Green 5-10-5	5	4.7	10	11.4	5	4.6
CPS 15-10-10	15	20.8	10	12.9	10	10.9
Village Green Professional Turf Food 5-10-10	5	6.7	10	11.0	10	12.2
Village Green 10-6-4	10	11.0	6	6.0	4	5.4
CPS 19-19-19	19	20.4	19	19.3	19	21.2
CPS 8-24-16 With Micros	8	12.6	24	22.1-	16	17.4
CPS 5-10-43 with Boron Alfalfa BC	5	5.2	10	11.7	43	43.0
CPS 29-0-22	29	29.0	0		22	23.3
Village Green Turf Food Professional 28-5-11	28	27.8	5	6.6	11	12.1
CPS Bulk 20-10-25	20	23.0	10	9.9	25	22.5-
CPS Bulk Blend 5.3-0-28.8*	15.3	19.0	0		28.8	27.6-
CPS 0-26-26	0	0	26	26.5	26	26.0
Village Green Professional Turf Food 12-25-12	12	12.4	25	25.8	12	12.2
Village Green Professional Turf Food, 18-3-3	18	21.6	3	4.2	3	4.5
DECRA AG SUPPLIES INC.						
DeCran Deluxe Fertilizer 30-5-10	30	30.2	5	5.5	10	9.8
DeCran Deluxe 18-23-12	18	18.1	23	27.1	12	12.5
EARTHGROW, INC.						
1881 Select Natural Organic & Mineral Lawn Food 8-2-4	8	6.2-	2	3.1	4	5.0
EVERFRESH, DIV. OF TRADCO						
Everfresh Fresh Tree Self Watering Crystals, 12-6-6	12	0.84-	6	0-	6	0.92-
FARMLAND INDUSTRIES, KANSAS CITY						
Toma's Vegetable & Garden Fertilizer 5-5-5	5	6.2	5	6.9	5	5.1
GARDENA, INC.						
Happy Garden Fertilizer for Flowers & Patio Plants 15-11-15	15	16.2	11	11.5	15	14.2

Table 1. Analytical Results for the 1994 Fertilizer Samples (continued).

	N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O	
	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%
GRACE-SIERRA HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS						
Osmocote Vegetable and Bedding Plant Food 14-14-14	14	15.1	14	16.8	14	16.1
Peter's Professional Blossom Booster Plant Food 10-30-20	10	12.5	30	33.6	20	21.7
Peter's Professional Houseplant Food 15-30-15	15	18.5	30	35.0	15	17.5
Peter's Professional All Purpose Plant Food 20-20-20	20	20.5	20	23.6	20	20.2
Once Season Long Plant Food Tablets, 16-8-12	16	16.5	8	10.0	12	12.9
Peter's Concentrated Liquid Plant Food, 5-10-5	5	5.5	10	12.1	5	6.1
GREEN CHARGER						
Green Charger 20-10-10	20	20.2	10	13.8	10	9.8
GREENVIEW CHEMICAL CORP.						
Greenview Green Power 30-4-4	30	30.8	4	3.6	4	4.8
HOLLAND BULB PRODUCTS						
Holland Bulb Booster 9-9-6	9	13.2	9	13.7	6	4.2-
JONATHAN GREEN						
Jonathan Green Winter Survival 10-18-20*	10	10.5	18	20.3	20	19.7
Jonathan Green New Seeding Fertilizer 14-28-15	14	14.7	28	31.9	15	13.6-
Jonathan Green Super Green-Up 27-3-7	27	27.6	3	4.7	7	7.9
JRM CHEMICAL DIVISION						
Soil Moist Plus 5-5-5 Spikes	5	11.3	5	2.80-	5	2.7-
LEBANON CHEMICAL CORP.						
Lebanon Lawn & Garden Food 5-10-5	5	4.9	10	10.1	5	5.4
Greens Keeper 10-6-4 50% Org. Fertilizer*	10	11.5	6	6.2	4	5.2
Re-Nu Seed Starter Fertilizer 11-23-10	11	13.2	23	25.3	10	11.1
Greens Keeper 20-8-8 50% Org. N Fertilizer*	20	19.8	8	8.4	8	7.9
Lebanon 10-10-10	10	7.8-	10	10.1	10	9.5
Lebanon 5-10-10	5	5.5	10	13.3	10	10.8
Greenview Certified Organic Fertilizer for Flowers & Vegetable 3-4-3	3	3.8	4	7.0	3	4.4
Greenview 2-Way Winter Green Weed & Feed 10-16-20	10	11.3	16	7.1-	20	9.9-
Greenview Green Start Seed Starter Fertilizer 9-17-9	9	13.7	17	16.4	9	10.7
Greenview Green Power Lawn Fertilizer 30-4-4	30	29.14	4	4.1	4	4.7
MILORGANITE DIV., MMSD						
Milorganite 6-2-0	6	6.0	2	0.7-	0	
OFFSHORE VENTURES INC.						
Squanto's Secret Fertilizer 2-4-2	2	1.9	4	5.9	2	2.3

Table 1. Analytical Results for the 1994 Fertilizer Samples (continued).

	N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O	
	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%
OLD FOX INC. (CALDWELL & JONES)						
Old Fox Seed Booster 18-23-12	18	18.5	23	22.7	12	12.4
Old Fox Garden Food 5-10-5	5	6.9	10	12.7	5	5.9
O.M. SCOTT & SONS CO.						
Scotts Superturf Builder 35-3-5	35	38.9	3	3.5	5	5.7
Scotts All-Natural Turf Builder 11-2-4	11	12.3	2	2.10	4	4.6
Scotts Next Generation Lawn Food 14-3-6	14	14.1	3	3.7	6	7.8
Scotts Lawn Pro Lawn Fertilizer 27-3-8	27	27.8	3	3.2	8	9.0
Scotts Lawn Pro Super Turf Builder 35-3-5	35	35.2	3	3.8	5	5.3
Scotts Lawn Pro Super Turf Builder + 2 Weed Control & Fertilizer 34-3-3	34	33.9	3	3.70	3	3.72
Scotts Step 4 Lawn Fertilizer 33-3-10	33	33.7	3	3.6	10	11.8
Scotts Starter Fertilizer 20-27-5	20	20.8	27	28.1	5	5.8
Scotts Super Turf Builder Plus Halts 36-3-4	36	36.9	3	4.3	4	5.8
Scotts Next Generation Lawn Reviver 9-2-4	9	9.5	2	3.5	4	4.5
PARKER FERTILIZER CO.						
Servistar Garden Food 5-10-5	5	6.8	10	10.9	5	6.12
Showplace Premium Winterizer 20-5-18	20	26.0	5	6.7	18	14.0-
Showplace Premium Weed and Feed 28-3-7	28	29.3	3	3.5	7	7.3
Showplace Premium Lawn Fertilizer 30-3-10*	30	25.5-	3	3.3	10	10.1
Showplace Premium Crabgrass Preventer Lawn Fert 25-3-10+	25	27.0	3	0.35-	10	10.2
PLANT RESEARCH LABORATORIES						
Oxygen Plus Outdoor Container Plant Food 4-4-4	4	4.4	4	4.1	4	5.9
PURSELL INDUSTRIES, INC.						
Servistar Premium Lawn Food 26-6-6	26	27.1	6	6.8	6	6.5
R/K AGRI SERVICE, INC.						
Royal Karpet 26-3-3	26	27.6	3	3.4	3	2.9
RINGER CORP.						
Ringer Vegetable Garden Restore 8-5-5	8	8.4	5	4.8	5	6.9
Ringer Lawn Restorer 9-4-4	9	9.3	4	5.0	4	4.9
Ringer Supreme Lawn Fertilizer 16-2-6	16	17.6	2	2.4	6	7.3
ROSS DANIELS, INC.						
Ross Flower & Garden Plant Food Cartridges 12-24-12	12	14.0	24	27.4	12	13.7
Ross Root Feeder Refills, 10-25-15	10	11.7	25	28.2	15	17.4
Ross Root Feeder Refills, 9-46-15	9	10.0	46	50.6	15	15.8
Ross Gro-Stakes for Ornamental Trees & Shrubs 8-16-16	8	12.2	16	18.6	16	18.9
Ross Gro-Stakes for Trees and Shrubs 16-10-9	16	18.4	10	8.9-	9	10.3
Ross Gro-Stakes for Evergreen, 10-10-10	10	12.6	10	9.7	10	13.7

Table 1. Analytical Results for the 1994 Fertilizer Samples (continued).

	N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O	
	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%
SCHULTZ CO.						
Schultz Instant Liquid Plant Food 10-15-10	10	11.1	15	16.8	10	10.8
Schultz Instant Liquid Plant Food for African Violets 8-14-9	8	8.5	14	16.2	9	9.9
SOUTHERN STATES COOPERATIVE						
Southern States 5-10-5	5	8.3	10	10.6	5	5.3
Green Charger 10-10-10	10	10.1	10	12.7	10	10.4
STAMFORD SEED CO.						
Old English Start-Tilizer 8-20-10	8	8.2	20	20.0	10	11.4
STERN'S MIRACLE-GRO PRODUCTS, INC.						
Stern's Liquid Miracle-Gro African Violet Food 7-7-7	7	7.8	7	7.8	7	8.2
Stern's Liquid Miracle-Gro Houseplant Food 8-7-6	8	8.2	7	8.1	6	6.7
Stern's Miracle-Gro Plant Food 15-30-15	15	16.0	30	32.0	15	16.3
Stern's Miracle-Gro For Tomatoes 18-18-21	18	18.7	18	20.5	21	22.2
Stern's Miracle Plant Food 30-10-10	30	29.3	10	10.8	10	10.7
Stern's Miracle-Gro For Roses 18-24-16	18	19.1	24	26.0	16	18.7
THE ANDERSONS						
True Value Greenthumb Winterizer 18-4-12	18	22.1	4	4.6	12	10.4
True Value Greenthumb Lawn Food 20-4-8	20	19.9	4	4.5	8	8.1
True Value Greenthumb Lawn Fertilizer 28-4-8*	28	27.3	4	4.0	8	7.9
THE ESPOMA CO.						
Espoma Organic Lawn Food 18-8-6	18	19.3	8	10.5	6	4.6-
Espoma Garden-Tone 4-6-6	4	4.4	6	9.1	6	9.1
Espoma Holly-Tone 4-6-4	4	4.2	6	10.4	4	5.8
Espoma Holly Tone 4-6-4	4	4.0	6	8.7	4	5.0
Espoma Plant-Tone	5	5.4	3	8.8	3	3.8
Espoma Tree-Tone	9	10.0	5	7.4	4	5.1
Espoma Plant-Tone 5-3-3	5	4.4-	3	6.8	3	5.6
Espoma Organic Lawn Food 18-8-6	18	18.2	8	11.5	6	5.9
Espoma Garden-Tone 4-6-6	4	4.0	6	9.5	6	5.72
Espoma Rose-Tone 6-6-4	6	6.0	6	9.0	4	5.6
THE HY-TROUS CO.						
Hy-Trous Liquid Seaweed Plant Food 0.1-0-1	0.1	0.25	0		1	1.1
Hy-Trous Liquid Plant Food with Micros 5-10-5	5	5.7	10	11.2	5	5.3
Hy-Trous African Violet Liquid Plant Food 4-12-4	4	4.5	12	12.5	4	4.8
THE TORO COMPANY						
Turbo Nurture Premium Care Lawn Food 22-2-3	22	21.2-	2	2.4	3	3.14
VERMONT NATURAL AG PRODUCTS						
Moo Plus Dehydrated Cow Manure 2-1-2	2	0.6-	1	1.3	2	1.15-

Table 1. Analytical Results for the 1994 Fertilizer Samples (continued).

	N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O	
	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%	Guar%	Found%
VICKSBURG CHEMICAL CO.						
K Power Controlled Release Premium Turn Fertilizer 13-24-12*	13	16.0	24	31.4	12	8.0-
VIGORO INDUSTRIES						
Gro-Tone Turf n' Tree Food 10-6-4	10	15.7	6	6.2	4	4.7
Suburban 5-10-10	5	5.6	10	12.4	10	9.4
Suburban 5-10-5	5	4.8	10	10.2	5	4.6
Suburban 10-10-10	10	10.1	10	13.1	10	10.0
Gro-Tone Lawn Fertilizer 30-4-6*	30	30.9	4	5.1	6	5.8
Gro-Tone Fall, Winter & Starter Fertilizer 12-23-18	12	12.4	23	25.8	18	18.4
WEATHERLY CONSUMER PRODUCTS						
Jobes Fertilizer Spikes for Tomatoes	8	11.1	24	28.3	8	9.3
Jobes Plant Food Spikes for Houseplants	13	13.4	4	6.2	5	7.5
All Natural Tomato Fertilizer Spikes 4-8-8	4	7.8	8	10.2	8	7.8

*Indicates that one or more micronutrients was found to be below label guarantee.



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, founded in 1875, is the first experiment station in America. It is chartered by the General Assembly to make scientific inquiries and experiments regarding plants and their pests, insects, soil and water, and to perform analyses for State agencies. The laboratories of the Station are in New Haven and Windsor; its Lockwood Farm is in Hamden. Single copies of bulletins are available free upon request to Publications; Box 1106; New Haven, Connecticut 06504.

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