

BS  
Dec 24  
X-7310POLANDAGRICULTURE /0200/  
Plant Disease /0223/THE FIGHT AGAINST INSECTS.SOURCE OSNABRUECK: Confidential source.DATE OF OBSERVATION: Up to September 1955.EVAL. COMMENT: We are unable to confirm or to deny this information.

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For the past three years, the woods east of the Oder between RACIBORZ and OPOLE have suffered so much damage that growth has stopped. The insects responsible for the damage are mostly caterpillars and leaf-lice. Fruit cultivation, particularly of apples and plums, had also been attacked and almost all private gardeners have suffered damage to their crops.

The government attempted to stop the damage in the woods by spraying powder from an aeroplane and have succeeded in localizing the insects to small areas. Private gardeners had no possibility of protecting their trees as they were unable to obtain the necessary powder. However, in spring 1955, a powder was made available for public use. The "Azoty" chemical works produced a powder "Azotox" which was on sale at 0,90 zloty per packet, each packet contained sufficient powder for 10 liters of water. The powder was, however, unsuccessful and again this year the fruit harvest was much less than in previous years. The cherry crop was below average and the apple, plum and pear crops were so small that it would have been a waste of time to gather them. Most of the fruit had fallen off the trees before it was ripe as it had been eaten by the insects.

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