

Wanted: home gardeners to become Master Gardeners

The man at left is a full time Agricultural Extension Service agent. He's examining the leafless azalea shown on opposite page



This month and next, the Agriculture Extension Service at Washington State University hopes to recruit *Sunset* readers who live in Western Washington for a special project scheduled for next spring. The extension service seeks experienced gardeners to serve as volunteer garden experts (question answerers) at special branch extension service information stations to be opened in shopping centers in various communities around the Puget Sound area.

Volunteers who sign up now will take 55 hours of free classes during the coming winter. Instruction will cover common plant problems in Western Washington and will enlighten volunteers about garden techniques, the care and proper use of garden equipment, the use of pesticides, and recent legislation in Washington governing pesticides.

Classes will be held in February and March, 1973, twice a week, six hours a meeting, for four and a half weeks. The curriculum and schedule for the program are given in the box at bottom of page 189.

Graduates of the classes will be called Master Gardeners. Next spring, they will be asked to serve unpaid one day or a fraction of a day each week at the local shopping center gardening information station. They will have frequent, regular opportunities for further help from agents.

Master Gardeners will answer all kinds of gardening questions asked by people who come to the centers. Much of the work will probably be the diagnosing of plant troubles, based on symptoms such as those shown on the opposite page. The pictures were taken at several trial information stations conducted by the extension service last spring.

This innovative approach to the regular work of the Cooperative Extension Service was conceived by the agents of King and Pierce counties, Washington, and were refined by Dr. David Gibby, area agent in charge of suburban horticulture. It is hoped that as the system develops, representatives will be placed in an increasing number of locations throughout the Puget Sound area and eventually in all the populated areas of the state.

If you are interested in registering for classes, call or write the Cooperative Extension Service. In King County: 100 Crockett St., Seattle, Wash. 98109; in Pierce County: 5601 Sixth Ave., Tacoma, Wash. 94806. □



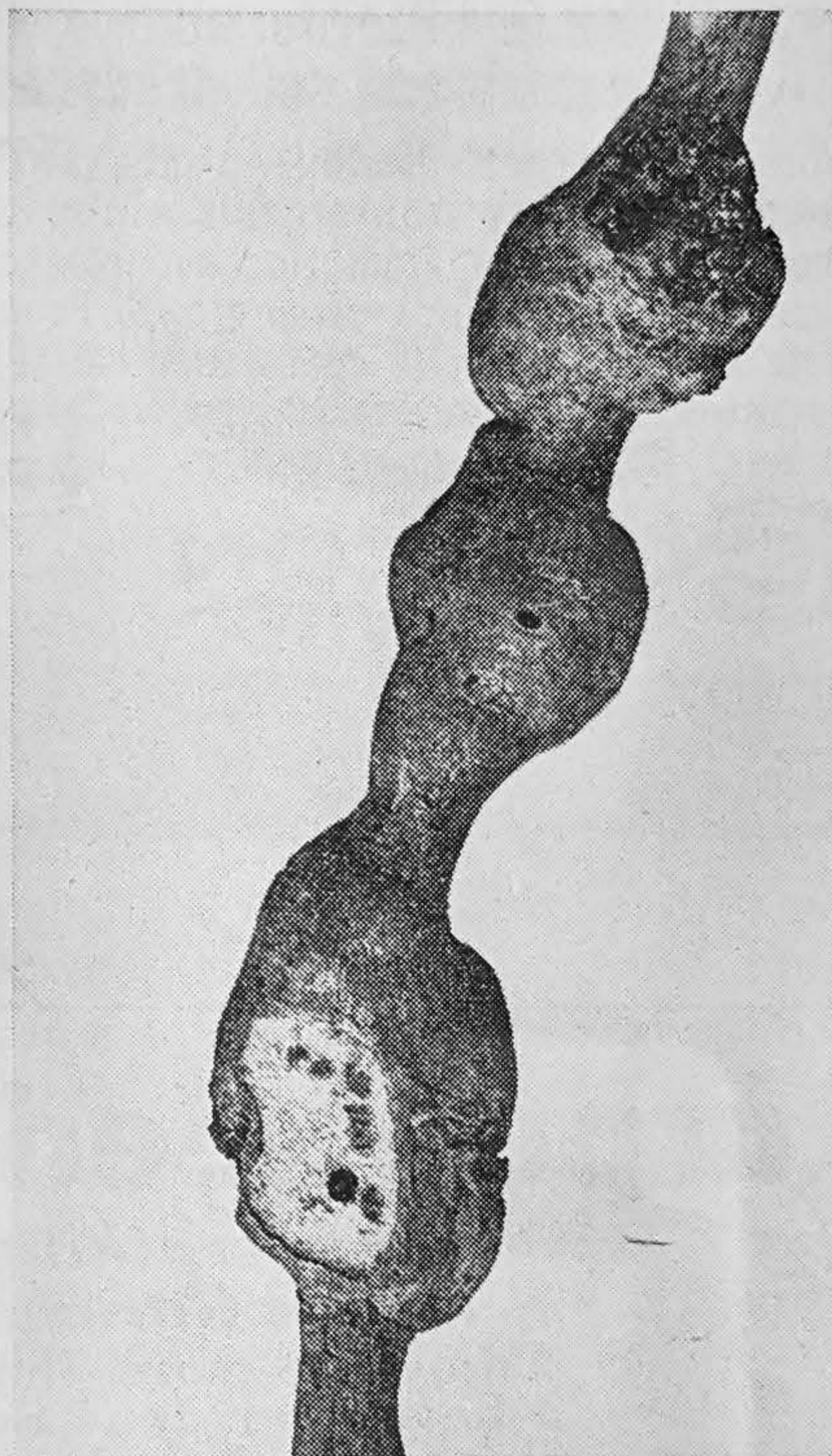
Symptoms: Only veins are green; rest of leaf is yellowish. Has ragged edges.

Diagnosis: Magnesium and nitrogen deficiency. Slugs and root weevils chewed leaf edges

Here are some troubled plants. How would you diagnose their symptoms?

Symptoms: Woody swellings with holes in them, on aspen branch.

Diagnosis: Swellings are galls that grew around insect holes



Symptoms: Ancient azalea has lost leaves, blooms weakly, stems are brittle.

Diagnosis: Debilitation. Owner can propagate new plants from existing good shoots

Training sessions for would-be diagnosticians

At this time, the extension service people have not yet assigned dates or a meeting place for the Master Gardener training sessions. But they have prepared the curriculum and schedule, which follows. The actual calendar dates in February and March, 1973 will be assigned on October 1. Those dates will replace "Day 1" to "Day 9" presently on the schedule.

Day 1. Registration and Program Survey, 8 A.M. to 9 A.M. General Botany and Plant Physiology, 9 A.M. to 12 noon. Soils and Soil Related Problems, 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Day 2. Lawn Grasses and Identification—Turf Problems, 9 A.M. to 12 noon. Turf Problems (continued), 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Day 3. Lawn Weed Control and General Management of Lawns, 9 A.M. to 12 noon. Basic Landscaping, 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Day 4. Landscaping Maintenance and Special Soil Considerations, 9 A.M. to 12 noon. Vegetable Management, 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Day 5. Vegetable Management (continued), 9 A.M. to 10 A.M. Small Fruits and Tree Fruits, 10 A.M. to

12 noon. Insects in the Garden, 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Day 6. Identification and Control of Specific Insects, 9 A.M. to 12 noon. Principles of Plant Physiology, 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Day 7. Diagnosis Techniques and Practices, 9 A.M. to 12 noon and 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Day 8. Plant Disease Control Methods, 9 A.M. to 12 noon. Weed Control, 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Day 9. Pesticide Laws and Safety, 9 A.M. to 12 noon. Consultant License Certification, 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.