

TXA News March 1998

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Dress Shop 2.5 Users

Fran Kozen

Some counties have had the Dress Shop 2.5 pattern making program for several months now. Let us know how you have used the program, what your successes and problems have been, or if you have been unable to use it. Your feedback might be useful to other counties.

I receive regular updates on Dress Shop 2.5 from Livingsoft. I downloaded a "patch" disk to correct a number of different problems. There have also been recent tips on calculating fabric yardage from quarter scale patterns, and on reducing bagginess in the thighs of pants. If you are not receiving this information, get on the mailing list by e-mailing them at livingsoft@thegrid.net, or check out the latest bug repair, hints, etc. on their web page, <http://www.livingsoft.com>.

Snowboarders Gear Up

Charlotte Coffman

The debut of snowboarding as a medal sport at the Winter Olympics saw an American snowboarder win the bronze medal in the half-pipe competition. He was wearing the US team's uniform of baggy nylon

pants and nylon jackets. The outfit was designed by a Japanese company Phenix under a line called X-Nix.

According to Mark Sullivan, an editor at Snowboarder magazine, most Olympic riders were "all pretty bummed" that they had to wear any uniform. Flaunting their counter-culture attitudes, early snowboarders had a ragtag, grungy look as each created his/her own outfits from loose-fitting regular street clothing. With the growth in popularity of the sport, however, has come a concurrent growth in specialty clothing for snowboarders.

More than 2.3 million people snowboarded in 1995, up from 1.2 million in 1992, according to the National Sporting Goods Association's latest Sports Participation Study. The number of participants is projected to rise to about 5 million by 2000. Women account for 30 percent of all riders and kids between the ages of 7 and 11 represent 18 percent of the snowboard population.

Snowboarding gear made up approximately 6 percent, or \$58 million, of the \$964 million in winter 1996/97 snow sports apparel sales. From the early '90s, suppliers of snow-boarding apparel, boards, and equipment have grown to 400 companies selling their wares in some 3,000 snow sports specialty shops and chain sporting goods stores. They include the young-at-heart labels like Ride, Twist, Yang, Wave Rave, Kurvz, Bonfire and Bombshell and familiar outdoor companies like North Face, Helly Hansen, Nike, and Columbia Sportswear. Although fewer than a dozen firms have volumes of more than \$10 million, Seventh Avenue designers like Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilfiger are taking notice. Tommy Hilfiger is producing a line of snowboard wear called Hilfiger Boardsports and is sponsoring world champion Seth Neary.

Designing snowboard wear is not all that simple. Early boarders realized the need for outdoor clothing that would stay dry, keep them warm, and resist the wind, but they found regular ski-wear too snug for the freewheeling maneuvers of snowboarding. In addition, the rigorous sport demands strong construction. While a designer shirt might have seven pieces, garments for snowboarding are often made of as many as 50 pieces.

With specialty fabrics and a high degree of technical construction comes high prices. Suggested retail prices on jackets range from \$150-350; bottoms and bibs go for \$100-300. One of the Olympic uniforms is said to cost from \$320 - 450.

With new companies being formed at a steady pace and established firms moving in on the action, some industry watchers are concerned about market stability. Fila spokesperson, Tom Hsieh said, "Snowboarding is obviously the fastest growing winter sport in the world. At some point in our lifetime, there probably will be more snowboarders than skiers on the mountains." He went on to say that he believes there will always be space for the small firm that was built by snowboarders for snowboarders.

Resources:

1. Abend, J. Carving a Niche within a Niche, *Bobbin* 70: 40-43. July, 1997.
 2. Ward, T. J. Some Olympic Winter Fashions Have a Speedway for Their Runway, *The New York Times*, February 12, 1998.
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Textile Tidbits

Charlotte Coffman

A New Fiber is Named

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has selected "elastoester" as the generic name for a new, stretchy fiber. The fiber, which is similar but chemically different from spandex, is marketed for fabrics used in swimwear, cycling shorts, ski pants, etc. All textile products containing the fiber must now identify it as elastoester on the legally required fiber content labels. Since the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act of 1960, only six names have been added to the official list.

-Textile Chemist and Colorist
Vol. 29, No. 8, 1997

1998 Quota Phaseouts

U.S. quota restrictions on many baby clothing and silk blend garment import categories were eliminated in the second phase of implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, which began in January of this year. The list includes blouses containing at least 70 percent silk, cotton knit babies' garments, and synthetic knit babies' garments. A complete list of categories included in the second, third, and final quota phaseouts can be found in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 60, No. 83.

-*Bobbin*, pp 12, July, 1997.

Interesting Fabrics Dictate Style for Spring/Summer 1998

Charlotte Coffman

Some have described the fashions and fabrics of the coming summer and spring as "80s style and 90s comfort." The emphasis is on unusual fabrics, which readily translate into romantic, action-oriented, or tailored garments.

Linen and cotton remain popular as warm-weather fabrics. The forever-favorite denim will be available in several weights with or without streaks from abrasion. The younger set prefer their denims trimmed with novelties and big cargo packets. New cotton fabrics include one made from 100 percent cotton yarn with a silicone finish that gives the appearance of linen. Cotton/mohair and cotton/silk are unexpected combinations.

Delicate sheer polyester microfiber knits, nylon laces, and pointelle knits all blended with spandex add a romantic touch in pastels and florals. The same fibers also appear in sleek, abstract designs.

Metallic fabrics of white, silver, and pewter add flash to the spring season. This influence promises to carry into fall with hints of pewter, silver, and brass. Metallic fabrics have a lustrous, rich appearance. Some are made from metal yarns, which are produced by laminating a layer of metal between a plastic film. This film can be colorless or colored prior to the laminating process.

Textures, mosaics, diagonal stripes, and animal prints will be big. Exotic prints from diverse cultures continue to create excitement, as do highly decorated fabrics covered with floral, leaf, or scroll designs.

Color choices include aqua, teal, lilac, and coral. Also watch for some off-beat mixes of red, cream, and brown.

Sources:

1. Clothes Care Gazette No. 125: 1-2, International Fabricare Institute, Silver Spring, MD, January, 1998.
 2. Textile Watch, Bobbin, pp. 79-80, July, 1997.
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Drinking Water Advisory for MtBE

Ann Lemley

Health Advisory for MtBE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a drinking water health advisory for MtBE (methyl tertiary-butyl ether) in December, 1997. Such advisories are issued for contaminants for which there are no standards promulgated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The advisories are intended as guidance; they provide advice to consumers and a health effects analysis. It is often the case that contaminants for which an advisory is issued will have a primary drinking water regulation in the future.

What is MtBE?

MtBE is an organic chemical that is used in gasoline as an additive to promote complete burning. Complete burning makes gasoline more efficient and also reduces levels of carbon monoxide and ozone in the air. Because burning of gasoline in automobiles is a major source of ozone and smog in certain areas of the country, Congress (under the Clean Air Act of 1990) required the use of reformulated gasoline (RFG) in those areas with the worst air problems. MtBE and ethanol are the two additives, also known as oxygenates, in RFG that enable it to burn more completely and reduce air pollution. There have been significant proven public health benefits and improved air quality because of the use of RFG.

The Problem

The problem that has arisen with the use of MtBE in RFG is that there have been leaks of MtBE into groundwater and drinking water supplies have been contaminated. MtBE moves very quickly through soils into groundwater supplies of public and private wells. Recreational watercraft using RFG with MtBE have also been targeted as sources of MtBE contamination of shallow aquifers and surface waters.

Health Effects

The health effects of MtBE in drinking water are not well documented. There are no data for health effects on humans. Animal data do not involve exposure through drinking water, but rather through air inhalation or direct introduction of MtBE in oil into the stomach. Cancer and noncancer effects have been shown with these routes of exposure to high levels of MtBE. Further research is being planned on environmental fate, exposure, health effects, and remediation of MtBE. It is expected that MtBE will eventually be regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Until that time, the EPA Health Advisory suggests that concentrations be kept at or below the range of 20 to 40 µg/L (parts per billion, ppb). Above this level, MtBE has an unpleasant taste and odor, making it unacceptable to consumers.

Testing and Treatment

Some drinking water laboratories can test for MtBE. Tests should be done by laboratories that are certified by USEPA (or NYS Department of Health). The cost is approximately \$100 per sample. Removing MtBE from drinking water supplies is not easy for individual homeowners. Efficient removal requires an optimized system that combines air stripping and filtration with an activated carbon filter. Treatment will require working with local health department professionals. Because MtBE also poses a health problem through inhalation, the entire water supply needs to be treated and any treatment will have to be at point of entry to the house.

More Information

To obtain a complete copy of the MtBE drinking water health advisory, call National Center for Environmental Publications and Information (NCEPI) at 1-800-490-9198 or download from the internet at <http://www.epa.gov/OST/Tools/MtBEaa.pdf>

Satellite Teleconference Launches State-wide Home*A*Syst Program

On February 10, 1998, the "New York State Home*A*Syst Satellite Training Program" was broadcast live via the Cornell Cooperative Extension Satellite Network (CCESN) to more than thirty down-link sites in New York, Connecticut, Maryland, Wisconsin, and other states. The two-hour satellite broadcast, sponsored by the TXA Water Quality Program with partial funding from Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, represented the official launching of Home*A*Syst in New York State.

The satellite teleconference was organized according to five segments. The program began with a welcome by Professor Ann Lemley (Textiles and Apparel, Cornell University), followed by an update and background discussion of the National Home*A*Syst Program by Gary Jackson (Director) and Kay Stanek (Coordinator), who joined the broadcast live from the University of Wisconsin. Gary and Kay described the development of the Home*A*Syst risk assessment guidebook, as well as the overall guidance and program support provided by the National Home*A*Syst Office. The segment concluded with an overview and update regarding Home*A*Syst activities in New York State, presented by Ann Lemley.

The second segment, moderated by John Schwartz (New York Home*A*Syst Coordinator, TXA Water Quality Program), was a panel discussion with four county educators about their respective Home*A*Syst pilot programs. The panel included Sheila Myers (CCE of Onondaga County), Kyle Myers (CCE of Sullivan County), Lee Hanle Younge (Chemung County Environmental Management Council), and Sharon Anderson (CCE of Tompkins County). Each speaker used video clips or visuals/graphics to describe their different approaches for promoting, planning, and delivering county Home*A*Syst programs.

The third segment was a panel discussion with three local collaborators about their support, interest, and potential roles in county Home*A*Syst programs. The panel included Lee Macbeth (Watershed Control Coordinator, City of Syracuse), John Andersson (Environmental Health Director, Tompkins County Dept. of Health), and Gale Lyons (EFNEP Nutrition Teaching Assistant, CCE of Chemung County). Each speaker presented a different perspective about the usefulness and application of Home*A*Syst given various scenarios and county needs.

The fourth segment was a panel discussion with three Extension staff from Cornell about their potential roles, activities, resources, and general program support for Home*A*Syst. The panel included Deb Grantham (Land and Water Management Extension Program), Joe Laquatra (Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes Program), and Charlie Mazza (Homes and Grounds/Community Horticulture Program). Each speaker represents a programmatic link for the various topics addressed in the national Home*A*Syst risk assessment guidebook.

The satellite teleconference concluded with a thirty-minute Question and Answer segment, which

enabled audience members to call or fax their questions and comments addressed to any of the panel speakers. Following the two-hour broadcast, local site facilitators were encouraged to involve their audience members in a local discussion to begin planning or developing Home*A*Syst programs based on the ideas and concepts presented during the satellite teleconference.

If you wish to purchase or borrow a copy of the "Home*A*Syst Satellite Training Program" videotape, please contact John Schwartz at the TXA Water Quality Program (**phone:** 607-255-1943; **e-mail:** JJS6@cornell.edu). If you are also interested in hosting a local Home*A*Syst planning/discussion session, we will be pleased to send you a complimentary packet of facilitator materials to help you get started. The packet includes program support materials, staff and resource directories, sample news releases, registration forms, program evaluations, and other items.

NEW Water Quality Fact Sheet Available Soon

John J. Schwartz

In collaboration with the Cornell Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors (BCERF) Program, the TXA Water Quality Program is currently developing a new two-part fact sheet tentatively titled, "Reducing Potential Cancer Risks from Drinking Water." Part I of this fact sheet, "Contaminant Sources and Drinking Water Standards," provides a brief background regarding drinking water standards and the health effects of drinking certain contaminants. It also describes specific water quality problems and general cancer risks associated with certain chemical compounds. Part II of the fact sheet, "Home Water Treatment Options," discusses several methods for reducing general cancer risks from drinking water. The fact sheet is expected to be printed and ready for distribution in April, 1998.

Q&A about *Cryptosporidium* and Drinking Water

John J. Schwartz*

Q. What are the expected levels and patterns of *Cryptosporidium* in United States drinking water supplies?

A. The nature of *Cryptosporidium* occurrence in source waters remains unclear. Researchers believe that *Cryptosporidium* oocysts (the dormant, tough-walled, inactive form of *Cryptosporidium*) are present all the time for some water supplies, but that their concentrations vary according to various factors, especially rainfall events. For this reason, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has required all public water systems serving more than 100,000 people to conduct 18 months of source water monitoring for *Cryptosporidium*. In addition, the EPA is also performing a supplemental survey of *Cryptosporidium* occurrence in surface waters for more than 100 systems serving more than 10,000

people each.

Q. Are there different kinds of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in water?

A. Yes. *Cryptosporidium* oocysts may originate from numerous animal hosts, including cattle, swine, horses, deer, chickens, ducks, fish, turtles, cats, and dogs. However, the only oocysts of concern to humans are those derived from mammalian hosts which also remain viable in sources of drinking water supplies. The species of *Cryptosporidium* known to be infectious to humans is *Cryptosporidium parvum*. Other species that exist in a wide range of animal hosts have not been shown to be infectious to humans. However, recent research indicates that non-mammalian species (i.e. geese, ducks, etc.) can be carriers of oocysts that are infectious to humans, if these oocysts are exposed to other oocysts derived from a mammalian host. This finding creates some concern regarding potential contamination of source water drinking supplies from waterfowl and some wildlife.

Q. Is monitoring being performed to reduce the risk of *Cryptosporidium* contamination in drinking water sources?

A. Yes, although current analytical methods limit the usefulness of *Cryptosporidium* monitoring results. Currently, *Cryptosporidium* monitoring can indicate: (1) the presence of oocysts in a drinking water supply; (2) a potential concentration range at which oocysts may occur over time; and (3) relationships between occurrence of oocysts and certain characteristics of a water supply source (i.e. rainfall events, seasonal variations, etc.), when sufficient numbers of samples are collected over time. Monitoring cannot, at the present time, indicate: (1) an absence of oocysts from a water supply; (2) the actual concentration present in water for any particular sample; and (3) whether the oocysts detected are viable (still alive) or infectious to humans. Additionally, *Cryptosporidium* monitoring may sometimes produce results that are false positives or false negatives. This means that *Cryptosporidium* may be reported as present when it is absent, or absent when it is present. Scientists are working to develop a new standard method or methods in the near future to improve analysis of *Cryptosporidium*.

If you are interested in educational materials about *Cryptosporidium* in drinking water, please contact John Schwartz at the TXA Water Quality Program (**phone:** 607-255-1943; **e-mail:** JJS6@cornell.edu) and request a complimentary copy of the USDA Water Quality Program/Cornell Cooperative Extension fact sheet #329WQFS6, "Cryptosporidium: A waterborne pathogen," published by Cornell Media Services in 1996. Multiple copies may be purchased from the Cornell Resource Center (**phone:** 607-255-2080; **fax:** 607-255-9946; **e-mail:** dist_center@cce.cornell.edu).

* Adapted from "Ten common questions about Cryptosporidium," prepared by Michelle Frey, Carrie Hancock, and Gary Logsdon, *Opflow* newsletter Vol. 24, No. 2, February 1998.