

Is Your Underwear Safe?

Public radio recently featured a program on use of organically grown cotton for wearing apparel. Though the cost of cotton and clothing production is much higher, the demand currently exceeds the supply. The demand comes from those who fear health problems if they wear clothes produced from cotton grown with "synthetics." (I'm lucky to have survived more than 81 years of use of such "poison" undergarments).

Actually, there is no scientific research to support such concerns, but then research is slow, and who can afford to wait for it when confronted with this life-threatening menace?

In the broadcasts, this entire "pure cotton" issue was frequently associated with sustainable agriculture and environmental protection, though the relationship was quite hazy.

Get used to environmental protection. It's part of life. We all must stand behind environmental concerns for pollution and land destruction. Fortunately, efficient high yield agriculture is the friend of the environment. It permits production on the better lands, while saving wetlands and the poorer, erodible areas for wildlife, trees and pasture.

High yields provide more cover, allow less runoff, and build up soil organic matter. Fertilizer . . . whether organic or inorganic . . . is essential to meet these goals.

You know that and I know that, but the *facts* are not always being told by some. ■

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