

On an intensively cultivated soil in New Guinea, the quantities of the above constituents removed in a year may reach—

	lb. per acre.
Nitrogen .. .. .	6
Potash .. .. .	3
Phosphoric acid .. .. .	1½

For a single year these quantities may appear small, but over a number of years they are considerable, particularly when it is remembered that nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid are present in the soil in relatively small quantities.

Many plantation soils have been under European cultivation for half a century or more and before this they had probably been subject to native cultivation. Because of heavy rainfalls and the loose texture of most New Guinea soils, soil impoverishment due to leaching is also considerable although it is difficult to determine, with any degree of accuracy, the extent to which our soils are impoverished by this means. However, the fact that comparatively young plantations are declining in yield because of soil impoverishment is a definite indication that no time should be lost in taking the regular application of fertilizers more seriously.

Fertilizers should be applied each year and although the expense involved in the year during which the work is done may not seem justified immediately, the effects will be more evident as time goes on. Perhaps the most satisfactory way of overcoming the difficulty would be the introduction of legislation enforcing the purchase of so many pounds of fertilizer for each ton of agricultural produce exported. But, no matter what arrangements are made, there should be no delay in putting them into operation.

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#### ERRATUM.

In the May, 1941, issue of the *New Guinea Agricultural Gazette* (Vol. 7, No. 2), reference is made on page 116 to the tung oil tree, *Aleurites fordii*. The correct botanical designation of this tree is *Aleurites moluccana*.

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