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Even plants can run a fever, especially when they're under attack by insects or disease. But unlike humans, plants can have their temperature taken from 3,000 feet away-- straight up. A decade ago, adapting the infrared scanning technology developed for military purposes and other satellites, physicist Stephen Paley came up with a quick way to take the temperature of crops to determine which ones are under stress. The goal was to let farmers precisely target pesticide spraying rather than rain poison on a whole field, which invariably includes plants that don't have pest problems. Even better, Paley's Remote Scanning Services Company could detect crop problems before they became visible to the eye. Mounted on a plane flown at 3,000 feet at night, an infrared scanner measured the heat emitted by crops. The data were transformed into a color-coded map showing where plants were running "fevers". Farmers could then spot-spray, using 50 to 70 percent less pesticide than they otherwise would. 来源

: www.examda.com The bad news is that Paley's company closed down in 1984, after only three years. Farmers resisted the new technology and long-term backers were hard to find. But with the renewed concern about pesticides on produce, and refinements in infrared scanning, Paley hopes to get back into operation.

Agriculture experts have no doubt the technology works. "This technique can be used on 75 percent of agricultural land in the

United States," says George Oerther of Texas A&M. Ray Jackson, who recently retired from the Department of Agriculture, thinks remote infrared crop scanning could be adopted by the end of the decade. But only if Paley finds the financial backing which he failed to obtain 10 years ago.

1. Plants will emit an increased amount of heat when they are _____. [A] sprayed with pesticides [B] in poor physical condition [C] facing an infrared scanner [D] exposed to excessive sun rays.

2. In order to apply pesticide spraying precisely, we can use infrared scanning to _____. [A] locate the problem area
来源 : www.examda.com [B] draw a color-coded map [C] measure the size of the affected area [D] estimate the damage to the crops

3. Farmers can save considerable amount of pesticide by _____. [A] transforming poisoned rain [B] consulting infrared scanning experts [C] resorting to spot-spraying [D] detecting crop problems at an early date

4. The application of infrared scanning technology to agriculture met with some difficulties due to _____. [A] the lack of official support
来源 : www.examda.com [B] its high cost [C] its failure to help increase production [D] the lack of financial support

5. Infrared scanning technology may be brought back into operation because of _____. [A] growing concern about the excessive use of pesticides on crops [B] the desire of farmers to improve the quality of their produce [C] the forceful promotion by the Department of Agriculture [D] full support from agriculture experts

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