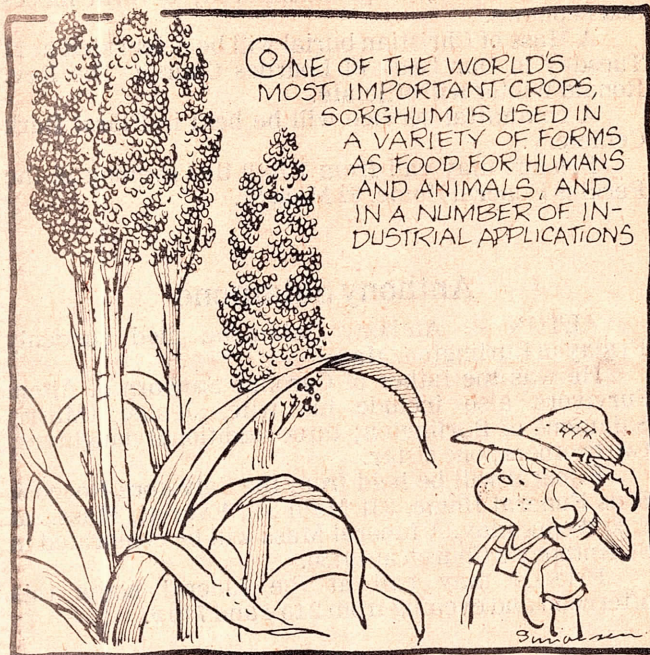




Junior Editor

A question submitted by Derek Sawyer, son of Charles and Janice Sawyer of Gilmanton Corner, is answered by the Junior Editor's Quiz, a nationally syndicated column published daily in the Evening Citizen. For Derek's question, "What is sorghum?" he receives \$10 and a copy of Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language.

Junior Editors' Quiz on SORGHUM



QUESTION: *What is sorghum?*

* * *

ANSWER: Sorghum is any of a number of varieties of grasses that grow in the world's warmer climates. One of the world's most important crops, sorghum is used in a variety of forms as food for humans and animals, and in a number of industrial applications, including the manufacture of beer, brooms, industrial alcohol, paper and whiskey.

Sorghum plants are native to tropical Africa and Asia. They are coarse plants, 3 to 15 feet tall, that somewhat resemble corn in appearance. Their stalks bear large clusters of flowers, and their stems and leaves have a waxy, white coating. Sorghum is one of the earliest-known cultivated crops. It was introduced into the United States about 300 years ago, but was not economically important until settlement of the west began.

Sorghum falls into one of four groups: grain, sweet, grass or broomcorn. Grain sorghums are grown for use as livestock feed and silage. In parts of Asia, the plants are ground to make pancakes and mush for human consumption. Sweet sorghums yield a syrup from which sugar is made, and are also used as animal feed. Grain sorghums are grown strictly for animal forage. The branches of broomcorn sorghums are dried and made into brooms.

— Ron Berthel

(Derek Sawyer, of Gilmanton, N.H., wins a prize for this question. You can win \$10 cash plus WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY OF THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE, Students Edition (©1981 by Simon & Schuster), if your question, mailed to Junior Editors, c/o this newspaper, is selected for a prize.)