

PASSION FRUIT A young South African was recently convicted of sexually assaulting two women nine times in rapid succession.

At his trial the accused claimed that he lost control of himself after eating a number of fruit from the marula tree.

Marula pips, it turns out, are used by African tribesmen in the Transvaal as an aphrodisiac that they believe confers prodigious sexual powers.

Moreover, the tribesmen claim, the sex potion enjoys the added property of acting as a birth control agent when taken by women.

Farmers of the region corroborate both claims, reporting that their cows become infertile after eating the fruit and highly aggressive on a full stomach of marula pips. Elephants in marula country relish the fruit as do other animals. It makes them aggressively potent.

SPANISH CENSORSHIP The Franco government in Spain bans all publications which mention the succession of Juan Carlos to the Spanish throne.

Most recently, the Spanish government has banned Time magazine and the Paris Herald Tribune. Official sources say that Franco will not permit the sale of media containing mention of the succession.

THREAT TO U.S. MEAT SUPPLY Veterinarians with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the Department of Agriculture warn that at least two devastating animal diseases have become threats to the U.S. meat supply, could wipe out part of it almost overnight and send prices soaring.

One is African swine fever--the most deadly of all hog diseases. It has been reported just recently in Cuba--only 90 miles offshore. Until 1957 African swine fever was just that--an African malady.

Then, with the emergence of newly independent African nations, relaxation of export regulations and greatly accelerated travel with the outside world, the disease began to move. It turned up in Portugal, went on to Spain, France, Italy and now Cuba. In Spain it claimed 10 percent of the swine population in a single year. Such losses scare U.S. producers. A comparable outbreak in this country could mean the loss of 5 million hogs in a year, sending pork prices way up. Another potential threat to U.S. livestock is foot-and-mouth disease, according to Dr. E. E. Saulmon, ARS deputy administrator. This is found throughout South America and the coming completion of the Pan-American Highway will mean more northward traffic, more risk of disease introduction into Central America, Mexico and the United States. Also, the disease is prevalent in Europe, Asia and Africa, and Dr. Saulmon says the U.S. is extremely lucky to have had no outbreak since 1929.

The diseases may enter the country in many ways--on a traveler's luggage, his shoes or clothing, in a souvenir packed in straw. Farmers who go abroad, particularly livestock producers, are warned about visiting foreign farms. If they go near livestock, they are urged to have clothes cleaned and shoes disinfected before returning. Also, they should not go near their own animals for at least seven days.

Spread of disease is so likely because of the speed with which meat animals move these days. In a recent three-day study, 20,000 animals traced through dealers, auction markets and stockyards came in contact with 1.2 million others by the time they reached destinations. And if one of the diseases is discovered, the action must be drastic--immediate slaughter not only of all infected animals but also of all those exposed.