The Taylor Research Help Desk

… is located in the glass-front room on the Main floor and is open Monday to Friday 11:30 to 3:30 to assist undergrads, grads, and faculty with all research, resources, database and catalogue questions and more!

If you’re not in the library, ask your question by:
- email: tayref@uwo.ca
- tel: (519) 661-3167 (8:30-4:00 M-F)
- Ask Chat: www.lib.uwo.ca (starting Jan 9)

The Oranges and Sulfur Edition

Glass of OJ with a dash of brimstone?

Scientists have discovered that cheap by-products from the citrus fruit and petroleum industries can remove toxic mercury from the environment. Since the industrial revolution, mercury has increased in the oceans three-fold, contaminating fish, other wildlife and the human food chain. Mercury lowers children’s IQ, and compromises reproduction and health of humans and other animals.

Published in the journal Angewandte Chemie in 2016, the process uses inverse vulcanization to create an inexpensive polymer. The authors reported that: “Sulfur-limonene polysulfide can be processed into coatings and solid devices that remove metal salts such as palladium(II) and mercury(II) from water and soil”.

Sulfur Trivia

- Pure sulfur is odourless
- Sulfur is the eighth most common element in the human body
- Canada produced 7 million tonnes in 2011
- Hydrogen Sulfide is a superconductor at the highest known temperature of minus 70 C
- Sulfur compounds called mercaptans give skunks their defensive odour

Piles of sulfur in Vancouver

References