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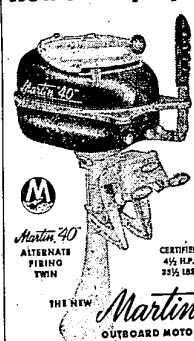
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CARE NECESSARY IN USE OF WEED KILLERS IN CORN

Installation of the drainage systems in fields can be profitable but the work must be properly done to be effective. This is suggested by F. W. Pelkert, agricultural engineer at Michigan State college. A tile system should be properly planned and staked out before the actual installation is made. Many tiling systems fail because the proper grades have not been used or because of inadequate tile size. The specialist points out that it is important to avoid sags in the line due to clogging which may occur at such points. One clogged place can cause many hundreds of feet of tile to become ineffective. Where a tile goes from a steeper to a flatter slope the velocity of the water will decrease and silt carried by the water may be dropped. A silt well placed at the change of grade will help to correct this condition.

A good grade of tile is essential, Pelkert declares. Whether it is of clay or concrete, it should meet the stringent specifications of the American Society of Testing Materials. Concrete tile requires soil tests. County agricultural agents can give information on these tests. A source of many tile failures is at the outlet. Short pieces of tile at the outlet often become undermined and fall into the drainage ditch. Clogging can also occur when dirt falls from the bank and blocks the flow of water. A few feet of metal pipe at the outlet end of the tile line, projecting well beyond the edge of the ditch bank, will usually solve this problem.

Fertilizer Advice Given in New MSC Bulletin

The annual bulletin of Michigan fertilizer recommendations, compiled by the Michigan State college soil science and horticulture departments, is now available. The recommendations made are gathered from field experiments covering many years. Scientists conduct these experiments in different parts of the state under the same climatic conditions that farmers have for growing crops. Fertilizers are then suggested for various types of soil.

Fruit Pollination Presents Many Problems To Michigan Growers

Blossoms on a fruit tree do not necessarily mean the tree will bear fruit, according to horticulturists at Michigan State college. Those blossoms must first be fertilized, and that requires careful planning on the part of the grower. To set a good crop of fruit, pollen must be transferred from one blossom to another. Pollen is usually carried by bees and flying insects, but if the weather is cool and windy, the bees will not fly. Therefore, a number of orchardists, in cooperation with Michigan State college, have been trying artificial pollination. They collect the pollen, ripen it, and apply it to the blossoms either by hand, duster, or even by airplane.

TIPS GIVEN ON INSTALLING TILE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

The time isn't here when farmers can break the hoe handles, sell off the cultivators and weeders and care for their corn crop through the use of chemical weed killers. That's the opinion of Michigan State college research scientists who have done much work with chemical weeding.

Dr. B. H. Grigsby and C. L. Hammer agree that farmers may want to make some field tests on both pre-emergence and post-emergence treatment of field corn. But the farmer who treats his entire field with little or no attention to the soil, temperature, humidity and other conditions may find himself in trouble they think.

Some scattered success stories on weeding corn fields last summer by spraying with 2,4-D have caused some farmers to believe they may be able to grow a crop without cultivating or hoeing. The scientists believe that may be true, but add it isn't here yet.

Experiments conducted at Michigan State college in 1947 showed both pre-emergence and post-emergence treatment could bring results.

Dr. Hammer had good results with pre-emergence treatment on sweet corn and Dr. Grigsby did similar work on field corn in cooperation with E. R. Churchill, farm crops specialist. From one to 3 pounds of 2,4-D salt, mixed in enough salt to spray an acre, killed most of the small annual and grass weeds. The seed-bed was prepared and weeds allowed to come up. Corn was planted and then the soil was sprayed before the seed germinated.

Much less of the weed killer was used in post-emergence spraying, as heavy applications damaged and stunted the corn plants. From one-quarter to one-half pound of 2,4-D acid per acre was sprayed on the corn ground when the crop was six to 10 inches high. The application did not kill the weed grasses, however, as pre-emergence treatment usually does.

Many county agricultural agents in southern Michigan plan demonstrations on chemical treatment of corn this spring and summer. Farmers interested in seeing the work done should plan to attend. Those farmers who plan to try some chemical weed treatment on corn crops this year should contact the county agent for advice, Dr. Grigsby believes.

But the grower must be sure that the right pollen is available. Some varieties of fruit which are called self-fertile, can be fertilized only with the pollen of a different variety. In general, this is true of apples, pears, sweet cherries, and plums. To overcome this difficulty, the grower may set out his orchard with varieties that will cross-pollinate each other. If this is not possible, he may graft individual branches on certain trees in the orchard, or he may set pails of blossoms throughout the orchard. It also helps if he provides strong colonies of bees to make the transfer of pollen.

A final consideration, say the horticulturists, is whether the varieties are compatible. For example, Cortland and early McIntosh apples do not work well together. Neither do Bartlett and Seckel pears. Time is another factor in compatibility for the varieties chosen must have overlapping blooming periods if pollination is to occur.

RECOMMENDS USE OF FERTILIZER ON SPRING GRAIN

The use of commercial fertilizer on spring grains is recommended by E. D. Longnecker, soils specialist at Michigan State college.

One of the best places to use the fertilizer, he points out, is with small grain crops with which seedlings are compatible. For example, legumes or grasses are being made. The benefits to the grass and legume seedlings often equal or surpass the benefits to the grain crop.

On the heavier types of soil, the silt loam and clay loams, an application of 300 to 400 pounds per acre of 2-16-8, 2-12-5, 0-14-7, 0-20-10, or 0-20-0 is advised. Where a legume is being seeded with the grain, a fertilizer carrying half as much potash as phosphorus should be selected. On a field which tends to produce grain crops lacking in straw growth a complete fertilizer carrying at least two per cent of nitrogen should prove most satisfactory. Where stable manure is being applied, ordinary superphosphate may be used to supplement the manure.

Fertilizers carrying more potassium are needed on the lighter soils such as loams and sandy loams. Analysis such as 3-12-12 and 0-12-12 can be used. The 0-12-12 should be used only on soils which tend to promote overrank straw or stalk growth.

This spring it may be necessary to substitute 2-12-6 for 3-12-12 because of shortages.

Rural Zoning Urged By Extension Specialist

Zoning of rural communities, small towns and townships is termed as "insurance" by Dr. Louis A. Wolfanger, extension specialist in land use planning at Michigan State college.

"Most communities," Dr. Wolfanger contends, "do not concern themselves with what is taking place in the limits until some misuse of land takes place or an offensive industry, business or other activity appears. Then they seek to remedy the condition by zoning or the enactment of a building code or some similar measure. But it is then too late because such measure can be retroactive," the MSC extension specialist reports.

Through its extension and research facilities, Michigan State college has assisted many communities in zoning problems.

Classified Ads Get Results Quickly

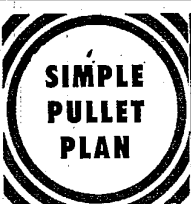
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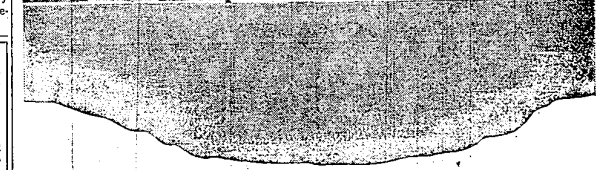
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