

IT'S Spring CHANGEOVER TIME . . .

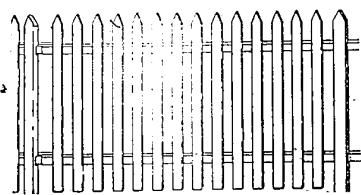
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FARM FEATURES

End Seen To Chickweed Plague

Chickweed has long plagued the strawberry growers but the battle appears to be about through. Agricultural researchers at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station have used the chemical, IPC, to get good control of this weed.

R. F. Carlson and J. E. Moulton, Michigan State College horticulturists, applied four rates of IPC, (5, 10, 15, and 25 pounds per acre) at three different times (September, October, and November) and at two locations to chickweed growing in plantings of Robinson and Premier strawberries.

Satisfactory control of chickweed was obtained at all concentrations and from various times of application. The chickweed at first exhibited a water-soaked appearance at the basal portions of plants and turned brown and died approximately two months after application.

Apparent yield of fruit from the treated plots was equal to that of plants in hand-weeded rows. Some injury to the plants was noticed at the high rate.

Hand weeding is a costly process that reduces profits in the strawberry business.

Roots of strawberry plants appeared more vigorous from treated areas, (5, 10 and 15 pounds per acre) than from check rows. Some injury was noticed on roots of plants from the higher rate of 25 pounds, and formation of new roots at the base of the crown.

Carlson also points out that early spring application of IPC will also control chickweed in strawberries. It should be applied as early as one can get on the soil, preferably in late March and early April.

Results of the chickweed experiments were reported in a recent issue of the Proceedings of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

GRASSES, LEGUMES ARE KEY CROPS IN ROTATION PROGRAM

Grasses and legumes are the key crops in a rotation to build and save soil according to Ed Longnecker, Michigan State College extension specialist in soil science.

Longnecker cites tests made on the Farden Experimental Plots in Saginaw county to prove his point. Over a nine-year period, corn has averaged 51.1 bushels to the acre in rotations including legumes. On plots where no legumes were used, the average corn yield has been 34.8 bushels an acre. Yields of other crops than corn have also been greater when clover, alfalfa and grasses were used in the rotation.

The longer the experiment is continued, the wider the difference gets. That's proof, Longnecker thinks, that the longer land goes without a legume or grass crop, the more difficult it will be to get it back into high production.

Legumes and grasses like brome, timothy and Kentucky bluegrass are helpful in soil conservation and building in other ways. Forming a turf or sod, they protect the surface against both wind and water erosion, the soil scientist explained. Roots penetrate the sub-soil and loosen it up to help drainage and aeration of heavy, tight clay soils. They prevent sandy rolling soils from washing.

During the month of June, Michigan farmers will have a chance to see demonstrations of the value of grass and legumes in the farming program. Grass Days are being sponsored by the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service with assistance from other agencies in all areas of the state.

Remove Hazards To Prevent Fire

Although much progress has been made in fire protection equipment for certain rural areas of Michigan, a great many rural fires still result in total destruction. David Steinicke, rural fire prevention specialist at Michigan State College, says late spring and summer usually bring on an epidemic of rural fires.

CELERY GROWERS SHIFT PLANTING TO GREEN TYPES

Changing consumer preference in the United States for green celery has resulted in a shifting of growers' plantings to more and more of the Pascal (green) types, say Michigan State College horticulturists and soil scientists.

Several varieties of green celery performed well in the experimental trials on the college muck farm in 1949, according to S. H. Wittwer, J. P. Davis, and A. N. Beach, reporting in a recent issue of the Quarterly Bulletin of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.

Varities outstanding in yield, storage quality, and blight resistance were Utah 15 and a local selection distributed by Vande Dunte Brothers in Hudsonville, Michigan. Utah 10-B and a similar selection called Superior Pascal showed excellent keeping quality, gave high yields, and had the best stalk length and heart development of all varieties. However, both are very susceptible to leaf blight in plants. Summer Pascal types showed considerable resistance to blight, but had poor storage quality and short stalks.

U-M Seeks Reason Why 2,4-D Kills Selectively

Announcement of a one-year research grant to study why 2,4-D (chemical weed killer) kills some plants and not others, has been made by the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Project at the University of Michigan.

A \$500 grant was made to Dr. Felix G. Gustafson, professor of botany, to employ radioactive iodine tracers in an effort to discover how 2,4-D works, according to Dr. Ralph A. Sawyer, chairman of the Phoenix Project preliminary planning committee.

Professor Gustafson said that experiments have shown that 2,4-D easily kills broad-leaved plants such as dandelions and plantain but does not kill grass leaves unless 2,4-D in high concentration is used. The investigations by Professor Gustafson will attempt to determine whether this difference of activity is due to lack of penetration in grass leaves by 2,4-D or due to a difference in protoplasmic (living substance) content.

In the family food budget the price per serving is more important than the price per pound or dozen. Meat cuts may vary from one to five servings per pound. A small chicken has more bone waste in relation to weight than a large one.

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Bean Growers Face Big Task

Eighty thousand bean growers in the United States, 40,000 of them in Michigan, are faced with a real problem — how to dispose of all the dry beans. And they've decided to do something about it, reports C. E. Prentice, Michigan State College grain and bean marketing specialist.

Even though dry edible beans have gained in popularity in American diets in recent years, bean growers are entering the 1950 season with a surplus equal to nearly half of last year's production, or two-thirds of our normal requirement for food for one year.

To remedy this unbalance, the bean industry is currently conducting a nationwide drive to bring the story of dry edible beans to the attention of the nation's homemakers — a story of economy, nutrition, and good eating. National Bean Week, which ended May 10, was promulgated by the Production Marketing Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and backed by Michigan's 40,000 bean growers through the Michigan Bean Producers Association. It also is actively supported by the Michigan Bean Council of Shippers and Growers.

Michigan farmers have good reason to back the campaign actively, Prentice says. The 1949 Michigan crop of over 5 1/2 million 100 pound bags of dry beans was 28 per cent of the national crop. About 92 per cent of all the Navy or Pea beans produced in the United States are grown in this state, as well as smaller amounts of other varieties. Michigan's crop was 25 per cent larger than normal last year.

The present over-supply, Prentice says, is due largely to the influence of war-time increases and the very favorable weather last year.

Michigan producers are planning to reduce planted bean acreage this season.

If one couple are unhappy merely on account of their limited circumstances, there are ten who are wretched from other causes.

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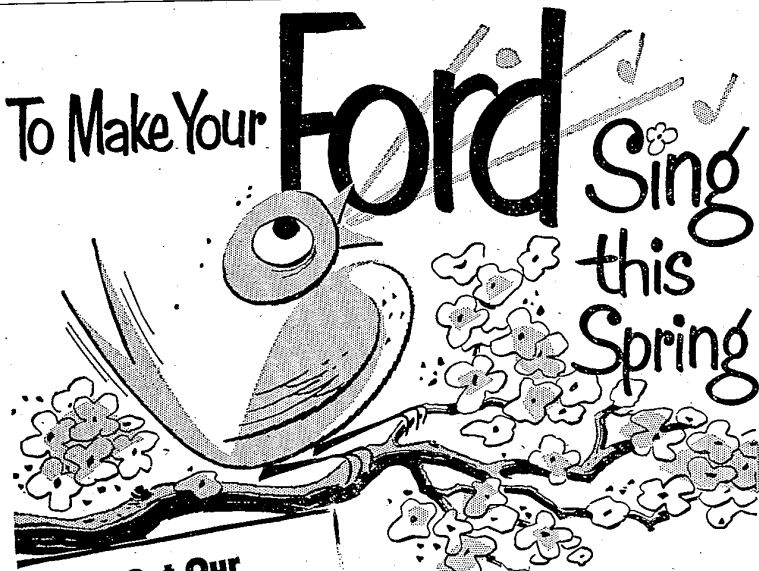
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