

State Plans 'New Look' For Hunting Licenses

The new look may come to Michigan's hunting licenses this year, the conservation department reports.

Department workers are studying proposed changes in small game and deer license back tags and license stubs.

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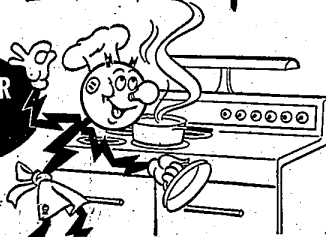


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YOUNG TREE CARE BALANCES GROWTH, HELPS PRODUCTION

By WILLARD E. BOSSERMAN
Assistant Agricultural Agent

This is the time of year that many fruit growers are setting out new apple trees. If these apple trees are to grow into strong, productive trees, it is important that they be trained right, starting immediately after setting out the trees.

When the tree comes from the nursery, some of the roots are cut off accidentally and others are cut off because they are injured. The top of the tree usually has several branches, some of these have sharp-angled crotches, which if left on, will make a weak branch that will break off with a moderate load of fruit. It is necessary to cut off some of the branches so that the tree will be in balance with the roots.

A common method now used in training trees is the "modified leader" type; that is, one central leader is picked, and one or two branches that have wide-angled crotches are selected this spring for scaffold branches. All of the other larger branches are cut off entirely. Some of the smaller branches which will not compete with the leader or scaffolds may be left on. The leader is cut back to about six inches above the scaffold so that new branches will form at the top. Next spring one of these new branches will be selected for another scaffold branch and another selected for the continuation of the leader.

Range Pullet Protection Helped By Dogs, Flares

Here are some tips from a Michigan State College extension poultry specialist on protecting range pullets from wild animals.

J. M. Moore says the best controls found in Michigan against coyotes and foxes are dogs and flares. Four or five flares around the range, he suggests, will make the foxes suspicious, and the dog is an added help — "especially if he is a bit yappy".

Moore believes it's a good idea to fasten a dog to a clothesline wire stretched tight and fastened well to the ground. The wire can be either on the ground or fastened to poles above the ground. A wire about 200 yards long, he adds, will allow the dog to patrol a large area.

And, the poultry specialist says, you can set traps to control rats and weasels. The range shelter house should be ratproof. Traps on trees and posts help control owls and hawks.

The Three R's

Figure Percentage, Application Cost When Buying Nitrogen Fertilizer

The best buy in nitrogen fertilizer depends on:

1. The cost per pound of the actual nitrogen the fertilizer contains.

2. The cost of applying the nitrogen.

So here is how to figure your best buy, says Karl A. Vary, Michigan State College agricultural economist.

Take the cost of the fertilizer per ton and divide it by the pounds of nitrogen there are in that specific ton. If ammonium nitrate costs you \$100 a ton, divide 100 by 670, the pounds of nitrogen in a ton of ammonium nitrate. This gives you 14.9 cents a pound.

Compare the cost of ammonium nitrate, for example, with Solution 32, a liquid fertilizer. Solution 32 may cost you \$102 a ton — only slightly more than ammonium nitrate. But the liquid fertilizer contains only 640 pounds of nitrogen per ton. Prices per ton vary widely in different localities but the amount of actual nitrogen in the ton does not differ. Here are the numbers of pounds of available nitrogen in a ton of other fertilizers: Ammonium sulfate or cyanamide, 420 pounds; sodium nitrate, 320; urea, 840; ammonium nitrate plus lime, 410; anhydrous ammonia, 1,640; Solution 32, 812; Solution No. 4, 740; Solution B liquor, 492; Solution No. 60, 420; NaClChurs, 140 pounds.

To figure the amount of a certain fertilizer you need per acre to apply the recommended amount of nitrogen, suppose the recommended amount for corn is 40 pounds per acre. Divide 40 pounds by the percentage of nitrogen the fertilizer contains. It is marked on the bag. In the case of ammonium nitrate the percentage is 33.5. Then multiply by 100. That would mean about 120 pounds of ammonium nitrate per acre should be applied to get 40 pounds of the available nitrogen. If you were figuring the same way for the 32 per cent solution, 40 pounds divided by 32/100ths equals 125 pounds — necessary to use to apply 40 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Next you are interested in what it will cost you to apply one pound of nitrogen by using the various fertilizers. Suppose you were going to apply ammonium nitrate at the last corn cultivation. If it cost an estimated 50 cents per acre to apply fertilizer by this method, divide the 50 cents by the pounds of actual nitrogen.

TV Antenna Requires Good Ground Connection

Television antennas make good targets for lightning to strike, to come in on, and ruin your TV set or start a fire, cautions George Axlin, Michigan State College extension television editor.

Ground the mast from the bottom, he explains, with a No. 6 or bigger copper cable. Keep it away from guy wire books. The cable should be grounded to a rod, driven eight feet into the ground, or the farmhouse lightning rod system. Then put a lightning arrestor on the lead-in wire.

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FARM NEWS

ALFALFA BEST FOR FEED WHEN FIELD IS IN BLOOM

When there is a heavy sprinkling of bloom in the field, alfalfa should be cut as soon as possible, according to Stephen T. Dexter, a farm crops specialist at Michigan State College. The hay will then have more protein than later cut alfalfa.

Now to compare the cost of nitrogen to figure the best buy, add together the cost of the nitrogen and the cost per pound in applying it. On the basis of the examples used, ammonium nitrate would cost 16 cents a pound and Solution 32, twenty cents, making ammonium nitrate the best buy.

Tomatoes Require Careful Planting

Now is the time to set out those mid-season tomato varieties and the best mid-season varieties to use are Stokesdale, Longred and John Deere. A good yellow variety is Jubilee.

Some early varieties have already been set out. However, tomatoes are a tender plant and are stunted by cold nights, so if you have waited until now to set out your tomato plants, you can set them deeper into the soil so that only the leafy portion is above ground. Roots will develop all along the stem which is under the soil.

Tomatoes should be set 4 to 5 feet apart in the row, and rows 4 to 5 feet apart. However, if you plan to stake your tomatoes they can be set 3 feet each way. The main advantage of staking is that it keeps the tomatoes off the ground and, because pruning is necessary, the yield is greater for a given area than the non-staked tomatoes.

A cupful of starter solution — made by dissolving 1 lb. of a high analysis chemical fertilizer in four gallons of water — will give tomato plants an extra boost at the start of the season.

Cutworms may be troublesome right after setting out. However, if you have not had trouble with cutworms in the past, your soil is probably free of the insect. But if you had cutworms last year, likely as not you will have them again this year. A solution of DDT poured on the soil around the plant will give protection against this insect.

Tomato blossoms do not set to form fruit if the night temperature is below 59 to 68 degrees. Recently, however, there has been developed a hormone which can be sprayed on the blossoms causing them to set even though temperatures are below 59 degrees.

Michigan farmers can expect to pay \$10 to \$12 per hour to have their hay, straw or silage custom field-chopped this season, according to a survey conducted by the Michigan State College agricultural economics department.

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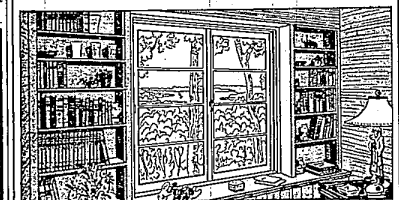
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When you transplant, you can get faster growth by giving the plants a shot of phosphate in solution, say two MSC specialists.

You can pick up a lot of good ideas on grassland farming practices at the Grass Day programs in Michigan.

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