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FARM NEWS

Fall Fertilization Can Save Needed Springtime Hours

Move the clock back? In a sense you can — by applying fertilizer this fall. Hours saved in the autumn, when labor and equipment are relatively free, will give a boost to essential springtime work.

It has been found that the soil acts as a storehouse for mineral nutrients. Very little leaching accompanies winter weather and spring thaws. What's more, the ground is usually firmer in the fall so that there is less chance that heavy equipment will damage the seed bed or growing crops.

Agronomists at Michigan State College are widely and strongly recommending fall applications of fertilizer on leguminous hay and pasture crops. Legumes need an extra "shot in the arm" to carry them over the cold months in good shape and to make them productive as early as possible.

Fertilizer can also be applied in the fall to land which will be planted the following year to corn and sugar beets. Michigan State College agronomists point out, however, that such applications should be planned under to be fully effective. On overwintering small grains plant foods are, as a general rule, applied in the fall anyway.

The National Fertilizer Association also has come up with some ideas on autumn application. Of prime importance is selection. There is a better chance of getting the exact kind of fertilizer you need when you buy in the fall. Manufacturers start to stockpile plant foods as soon as their spring rush is past. By autumn there's a good supply on hand and delivery usually is faster.

Agricultural scientists also tell that fall applied fertilizers, especially those high in nitrogen — help decompose crop residues faster, making organic end-products more available to feed the crop in the spring.

Crops recover faster from drought if fed during the fall. Strong, healthy root systems develop, allowing plants to take up water from a great depth and giving the crops a form of "insurance" against dry conditions.

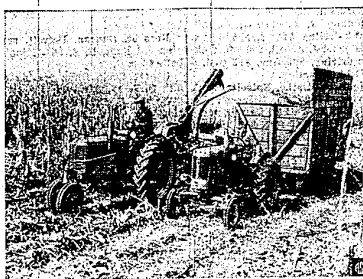
Recommend Relief For Overloaded Wires

Overloading of wires is one reason that electricity is blamed in about one out of eight home fires. When overloaded wires blow fuses, they are a nuisance. But when they heat through insulation and start fires — perhaps in walls, they are destroyers. David G. Genesee, farm safety specialist at Michigan State College, points out that electricity use has doubled in ten years in some farm homes. For that reason it will pay the home-owner to double his safety precautions, the specialist says.

Preliminary warning of horses for a harness race is known as scoring. The horses are turned near the starting point and hustled away as they will in the race.

Today's coal mine is no longer black, but white, because powdered limestone is sprayed through the mine as a safety measure against the spread of an explosion.

Corn Stalk Silage Produces Beef For Fraction of Usual Feed Cost



Cattle-fed corn stover silage, plus proper supplements, have made gains at little more than half the cost of conventional rations. Agricultural college tests and experience of practical feeders agree in their remarkable results. Part of the secret is use of urea as source of low-cost protein.

Key to the new method is a new corn harvester created by the J. I. Case Co. It cuts off the stalks, picks the ears, catches chaffed kernels, and chops the stover into silage lengths. Ears go to a wagon behind. Chopped stuff is blown to another wagon or truck alongside.

Favored method is to harvest early when stalks are full of moisture and rich in protein, then dry the ears artificially. When harvest is delayed until ears are dry enough to crib, the chopped stover needs water added to make good silage. The Case Corn Harvester works well with both methods.

Over 2,000 4-H Boys, Girls Ready For Last Big Days Of State Show

The 1954 State 4-H Show has passed the halfway mark and 2,000 boys and girls are readying themselves, their exhibits and acts for the final two days of activities at Michigan State College. In the evening the hubbub of activity as the livestock and delegates streamed into the East Lansing campus. The entire day was taken up with registration of the animals, exhibits and delegates. The boys and girls are being housed in wings of modern Shaw Hall, student residence hall.

The youngsters spent Tuesday afternoon in softball play-offs, sheep shearing contests, and eliminations for the Share-the-Fun Festival. In the evening the delegates and their leaders met to plan the sequence of events for the big show — the only one of its kind in the nation to be held on a college campus.

Wednesday was the day for judging and demonstration delegates to strut their stuff. Rabbits, sheep, hogs and poultry exhibit winners were named.

Last night the 4-Hers provided entertainment for the overflow crowd of visitors. Winner of the boys' public speaking contest gave his prize-winning talk. The winner of the girls' contest will speak Thursday night.

The winners of the last two days' fun festival eliminations provided the entertainment in the college auditorium. Prior to the indoor show, the Okemus 4-H Club from Ingham County presented its home "square dance" demonstration.

The Thursday night entertainment will again be given by the

Area 4-H Group Shows Well At Fair

Members of the combined Farmington and Southfield Township Classy Clover 4-H Club made an impressive showing at the recent Okemus County 4-H Fair.

The club as a unit received two blue ribbons while Andy Grant was awarded a Reserve Grand Champion honor for a pair of sheep. A white ribbon for chickens went to their owner, Paul Heinke, and Dick Cairns received a \$10 cash award for winning in the amateur program.

Cairns and Grant were also honored by being selected to go to the State 4-H Fair, now in its final two days, at East Lansing.

More members are wanted for the Classy Clover Club. Leader Guy Marsh invited. Anyone wishing to join the local 4-H organization may do so by contacting Andy Grant, membership head, at FL 1-5339.

Research Farm Tours Set For September 16

The annual field day at the Perden Farm, three miles south of Chesaning in Saginaw County, will be Thursday, September 16. Lee Perden operates a portion of his farm for research in cooperation with the soil science department of Michigan State College.

Tours of the plots will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., announces Paul Root, extension soil scientist. The best crop rotations, ways to get the most from green manures and fertilizers, and advantages of tillage changes will be shown.

APPLIES BY WEIGHT

Apples are sold by the unit, by weight, or by the original container. Selling by weight is more satisfactory, says Roberta Hershey, extension foods specialist at MSC.

Three apples of medium size weigh about one pound. There are about 40 medium-sized apples in a peck and 150 in a bushel. Medium-sized apples sell for less than large ones and are usually more economical.

MULCHES AID IN FERTILIZING OF CHERRY ORCHARD

Fertilizers alone may not be the answer to your lack of nutrients in the cherry orchard.

Tests run by A. L. Kenworthy, Michigan State College research horticulturist, show that both mulch and fertilizers are needed to boost the major plant foods.

For example, mulches of straw and alfalfa increased soil phosphorus more than applications of complete fertilizer. But the greatest increase in this nutrient in the soil came from combinations of complete fertilizer with straw and alfalfa mulches.

Soil potassium was increased as much by mulches of straw and alfalfa alone as it was by complete fertilizer only.

You can't expect any effect on potassium from mulch unless there is enough fixed potassium in the soil, Kenworthy cautions. You can't take out of the ground what isn't in it, he says.

Mulches of straw and alfalfa increased leaf nitrogen and potassium. The increase in leaf nitrogen and potassium from these mulches, with no fertilizer, was greater than from using nitrogen and complete fertilizers.

Growers may write to the Bulletin Office at Michigan State College for Technical Bulletin 243, showing the effects of sods, mulches and fertilizers on nutrients in cherry orchards.

Killing Thistles A Two Year Fight

Controlling outbreaks of Canada and sow thistles on your farm is not a hit-or-miss, once-over type of work. It takes at least two years.

These thistles are perennials and those you don't get this fall are going to be back next year to cause you more trouble.

So this fall is the time to start giving them the knockout blow. Next year you should be able to clean them up for good.

B. H. Grigsby, Michigan State College weed control specialist, advises farmers to dig the thistle patch once over and then wait for the survivors to come up again. This will be in early September.

Just the time to spray the field with one pound of actual 2,4-D acid per acre.

Since thistle control is at least a two-year proposition, Grigsby recommends putting the field to a crop of oats. Then, when the oats are four to six inches tall, spray the field again with one-half pound of 2,4-D per acre.

Canada thistle is more difficult to control than sow thistle and may take longer, but the same method works for both kinds.

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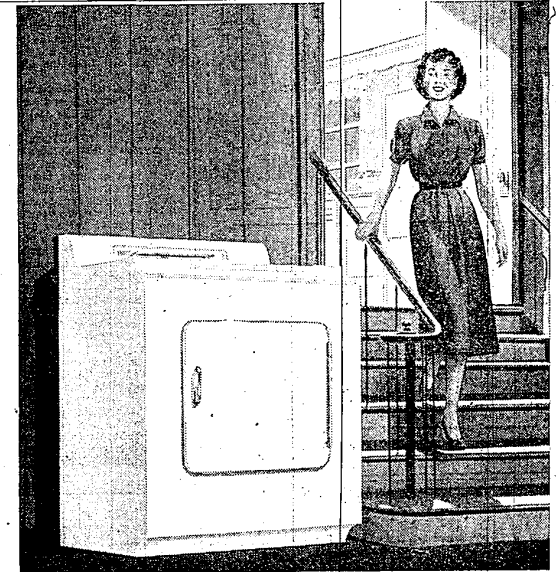
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