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NEWS ABOUT THE Farm

Kill Potato Vines To Stop Blight Ease Harvesting

Killing potato vines makes the harvest easier and controls late blight at the same time, reminds Dennis Clannahan, Michigan State College farm crops specialist.

Growers either can buy special chemical compounds or mix up 75 pounds of common salt in 500 gallons of water and spray it on, he suggests. Mechanical vine killers and pullers also may be used to kill the vines.

If vines are sprayed, allow ten days to a week for the vines to die, points out Clannahan. Donald McZeuer, MSC plant pathologist, explains that late blight organisms live in growing tissue and that if they have not washed down to the tubers, the vine-killing will stop them.

Mechanical vine-killing, a day or so ahead of harvest, is less likely to cause stem end discoloration in potatoes, notes Clannahan, than too-speedy chemical killing with materials that work in less than ten days. Mature potatoes are less likely to discolor in either case.

Care in digging the crop pays off, stresses the potato specialist. This starts with proper adjustment of the digger and with equipment in good repair. The digger needs a good padding of soil well up in the elevator chain. Depth and speed adjustments should be checked.

Bruses and cuts that are small during the harvest grow bigger in storage and on the way to market, Clannahan points out. The result is a higher grading loss and less top-quality potatoes for sale.

Boar Exhibit, Sale Set At MSC October 11

Premiums of \$500 set up by the Michigan Swine Breeders' association will encourage entries in the second annual state boar exhibit and sale on Monday, October 11, at Michigan State College.

Spring boars of the nine popular breeds, up to 70 of them, will be sold, points out Harry Moxley, MSC extension animal husbandman.

Gardener's Dream Weed, Moisture Control Found

Old newspapers are being put to good use in an experiment at Michigan State College that may provide growers with a new mulch.

Tests so far with a "paper pudding" made by stirring paper in water until it "soops up" show it will control weed growth if it is put on a quarter inch thick.

The paper also seals the soil surface so that moisture can get in but will not dry out rapidly, reports G. S. Rai and Charles L. Hamner, research horticulturists.

They built the idea on work done for many years with strips of kraft paper between pineapple rows in Hawaii. But they wanted to find something cheaper and easier to apply and hit on the "paper pudding" idea.

It can be sprayed on and it works with many different crops. Test runs have been made with tomatoes, corn, beans, even evergreen trees.

They suggest an old washing machine, or similar equipment, for mixing up the "soup" and that it can be sprayed on with a sprayer in use if folks want to try it on a small scale.

In some of their tests, they mixed fertilizer with the pudding and found the plant nutrients soaked down as needed.

Hog Prices Will Remain Stable, Economists State

Hog prices should be fairly stable during October, November and December, Michigan State College agricultural economists predict.

The economists say prices probably won't go below \$17 per hundredweight, one adds: "Quite likely the price will average \$18 for the three months."

Sharp Decline In Number Of Horses, Mules Noted

Horses and mules on farms have declined in the nation from 17 million to less than 6 million in the past 20 years, point out Michigan State College agricultural economists.

This has released enough land to raise the food needs for about 18 million people — three times the population of Michigan.

There's no time like fall to whitewash the dairy barn, suggest Michigan State College dairymen, to protect it against the winter.

John Clappison Sells Insurance

CONSERVATION SCHOOL ATTENDED BY 190 TEACHERS

Attendance at the eighth annual conservation scholarship training school at Higgins Lake during the past summer totaled 190 Michigan school teachers, reports the conservation department.

Divided into four one-week sessions, the school provided special, intensive study in land use, geology, forestry, plant and animal ecology and the relationship of world populations to world food supplies. Field trips supplemented classroom work and a highlight of each session was a visit to Ogemaw County to study the conservation department's watershed improvement program on the Cedar river.

Lodging, dining and classroom facilities of the department's training school were used and instructors were provided by the department, Michigan State College and Central Michigan College of Education.

As in the past, the school was sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, the National Farm and Garden Association, Branches of the American Revolution, Michigan United Conservation Clubs and the Michigan Department of Conservation.

Michigan Grows Cactus Too, Botanist Claims

Partner, the Old West's monopoly on cacti is strictly fiction, according to a University of Michigan botanist.

Mrs. Frank Clover, U-M associate professor of botany who also serves on the faculty of the U-M Biological Station at Douglas Lake, points out that Michigan can boast of one, and perhaps two, kinds of the desert's spiny plant.

She explains that practically every state in the union has at least one kind of cactus. "Michigan's known variety is the Opuntia humifusa, or prickly pear," Professor Clover states. She adds that there is current speculation about a second variety, Opuntia fragilis, said to be growing on the Huron Mountain, Lake Superior, region.

Professor Clover plans to investigate this "unrecorded" second type" soon.

Conservation Magazine Being Sent To All Schools

Every school in Michigan, public and parochial, now receives a bi-monthly magazine of the Conservation Department.

In their decision to make the publication available free to all teachers and students, members of the Conservation Commission said the purpose of the move was to stimulate an active interest in and understanding of the need for conservation of resources.

As a result of this action, 5,895 schools, from little one-room buildings to the largest metropolitan high schools, have been added to the magazine's mailing list.

More potatoes are ruined in harvesting and grading than any other way, note MSC specialists; equipment should be put in shape before the harvest rush.

REGISTRATION NOTICE

FOR
GENERAL ELECTION
Tuesday, November 2, 1954

To the Qualified Electors of the Township of Farmington, County of Oakland, State of Michigan

Notice is hereby given that in conformity with the "Michigan Election Law", I, the undersigned Clerk, will, upon any day, except Sunday and a legal holiday, the day of any regular or special election or primary election, receive for registration the name of any legal voter in said Township, City or Village not already registered who may APPLY TO ME PERSONALLY for such registration. Provided, however, that I can receive no names for registration during the time intervening between the Thirtieth day before any regular, special or official primary election and the day of such election.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I WILL BE AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

FRIDAY, Sept. 24, Fire Hall, 7 to 9 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, Sept. 29, Fire Hall, 7 to 9 p.m.
FRIDAY, Oct. 1, Township Office, 7 to 9 p.m.
MONDAY, Oct. 4, Township Office, All Day to 8 p.m.
and on
Monday, October 4, 1954 -- Last Day THE THIRTIETH DAY PRECEDING SAID ELECTION

at the TOWNSHIP OFFICE from 8:00 o'clock a.m. to 8:00 o'clock p.m. as provided by Section 10, Chapter 1, Part 2(a), Act No. 306, Public Acts of 1929, as amended by Act No. 291, Public Acts of 1945 and Act No. 108, Public Acts of 1951. From 8 o'clock a.m. until 8 o'clock p.m. on each said day for the purpose of REVIEWING the REGISTRATION and REGISTERING such of the qualified electors in said TOWNSHIP, CITY or VILLAGE as SHALL PROPERLY apply therefor.

The name of no person but an ACTUAL RESIDENT of the precinct at the time of registration, and entitled under the constitution, if remaining such resident, to vote at the next election, shall be entered in the registration book.

HARRY N. McCRACKEN, Twp. Clerk
Sept. 23 - 30

...and GARDEN

New Tax Changes To Aid Farmers

Farmers especially should make sure they study the federal tax law changes before filing their next income tax returns. Knowing the new allowable deductions may mean money in the bank — or at least more of it will stay there, point out Michigan State College agricultural economists.

Here are some of the changes made by the tax law revision:

Change in depreciation systems, more liberal deductions for medical and dental expenses, greater credit on dividends from investments, deductible expenses for permanent-type soil conservation practices, and a larger income allowance to children as dependents.

The animals will be registered Holsteins. Offered at the auction will be 65 heifers and five young bulls, all Bang's and TB tested. Many of the animals are from lines with outstanding records as milk producers.

The sale is slated to begin at noon, and it is expected dairymen will be on hand from a wide area. Citizens of Michigan are part owners in one of the largest herds of Holstein cattle in the world, if the cattle on the 15 state institutional farms may be considered as single ownership. The state owns approximately 2,400 head of registered Holsteins.

The responsibility of conducting farm activity on the farms at state institutions is a part of the work of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Last year, using wholesale prices, nearly \$2 million worth of food was produced on these farms, all of it consumed at the various institutions.

The forthcoming sale on September 23 provides revenue to the state, but gives dairymen opportunity to buy young Holsteins from lines with high records as producers.

TREE TRIMMING and REMOVAL

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OUTBOARD MOTORS

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