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FARM FEATURES

MSC SPECIALIST GIVES TIPS ON ALFALFA YIELD

The shortage of adapted alfalfa seed for Michigan farms means that efficient practices are needed in alfalfa production this year.

S. M. Harrison, farm crops specialist at Michigan State college, urges farmers to follow certain practices to help solve the alfalfa forage production problem. The seed used should have been produced in Michigan or in a state with weather conditions almost like Michigan. Certified seed is the best.

The land should be well supplied with lime. If tests show it is needed, and 400 pounds of high analysis fertilizer should be worked into each acre. Alfalfa grows best in a firm, fine seed bed and seed should be sown at or near the surface in an even distribution.

Since some of the alfalfa seed used this year may not be too well adapted to Michigan conditions, it is advisable to sow bromegrass with all seedlings of alfalfa this year. If it is impossible to secure sufficient adapted alfalfa seed for the entire acreage of new seedling, add June, Mommoh, or Alaska clover to the seedling mixture to insure next year's hay and pasture crop.

Forester Predicts Good Maple Syrup Year

This may be a good year for farmers who are in the maple syrup business, according to P. W. Robbins, Michigan State college forester. He has kept records on the cost of producing syrup in the past 13 years. The records show that the number of buckets of sap collected has definite effect on the cost per gallon of syrup.

In 1941 when 1934 buckets were hung, the cost of producing syrup was \$1.72 per gallon. In 1946, there were 980 pails on the trees and the syrup cost \$2.37 per gallon to produce. All labor was paid the prevailing wages at the college.

With a good syrup season this year, producers should earn 80c to \$1.00 an hour for their labor and a profit of \$1.00 to \$1.50 per gallon.

Michigan Beekeepers To Meet At MSC

The Michigan Beekeepers' association will meet March 4, 5, 6 and 7 at Michigan State College in East Lansing. A program full of information for beekeepers of Michigan is scheduled, states R. H. Kelly, horticulturist at MSC and secretary of the association.

Speakers from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Michigan State college staff, and members of the Beekeepers will be heard.

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GROWS 118 BUSHELS OF CORN PER ACRE!



Fairgrove, Michigan (Special)—An outstanding corn yield of 118 bushels per acre grown on a selected 5-acre contest plot, has won the 1946 Michigan state corn growing championship for Blenford Campbell, Tuscola County farmer, in the 5th Annual DeKalb Corn Growing Contest.

Campbell's yield, more than three times the size of the national average last year, was accurately computed according to contest rules from a selected 5-acre plot that had been in alfalfa and soybeans for three years. The contest field was spring plowed, fertilized with 2-2-6, and planted May 10 with DeKalb hybrid seed corn, variety 404A drilled in rows 40 inches apart.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates the average yield for all corn grown in Michigan last year at 28 bushels per acre. By comparison, the 53 Michigan farmers who entered the DeKalb competition averaged 34.5 bushels per acre on their selected 5-acre contest plots.

EMERGENCY LABOR AIDED MANY LOCAL FARMERS IN 1946

In 1946 the Emergency Farm Labor Program of the Oakland County Extension Service again met and solved many problems of securing labor for farmers. As a net result, a bumper crop of small grains, an average crop of apples and other fruits and vegetables were harvested successfully. Harley Abbott, Oakland County Farm Labor Assistant, declared today.

In its recruitment program the Farm Labor staff used 333 men and youth to satisfy work orders for 156 farmers. Included in this placement were 87 Jamaicans, 76 day hauls, 58 other seasonal workers (boys who live with farmer for summer season) and 112 men on yearly jobs. Approximately 600 youth were recognized for giving of their time and services to produce food by being presented with a diploma of National Service and insignia.

The Emergency Farm Labor office distributed 300 pamphlets and bulletins. They gave information on easier methods of picking various crops.

Some equipment was obtained by farmers to have adequate housing. The equipment included tents, cots, mattresses, mattress covers and campfires. The equipment that was obtained through the War Assets Administration was later turned over to the farmer at cost.

The Southern Michigan Cooperative Growers Association, Inc., organized in 1944, function throughout the year. Its duties are procuring and assisting farmers in securing labor on farms of Oakland County and portions of Wayne and Washtenaw Counties to harvest fruit, potatoes and grains.

The following farmers in this area were serviced with yearly placements in 1946:

William Clayton, Shady Valley Farms and Dunrovin Farms of Farmington, and Robert Hunt of Novi.

Spray Cabbage
For cabbage worms, dust the plants lightly with 3 per cent DDT powder or spray with 3 tablespoons of 50 per cent wettable DDT powder to a gallon of water. To avoid residues do not apply within 30 days of harvest.

POTATO SPRAYING TESTS SHOW NEED FOR DDT MIXTURES

Reports of the 1946 potato spraying and dusting experiments at the Lake City Experiment Station show that the results obtained depend upon what materials are used. Twenty five sprays and 16 dusts were compared.

J. H. Munch and W. F. Morofsky of the Michigan State college botany and entomology departments have some recommendations which are the result of the tests.

High or low lime bordeaux mixture plus DDT gave the best control of the Colorado potato beetle, flea beetle, potato leaf hopper, and six spotted leafhopper. Of the fungicides used in sprays, Dithane plus zinc sulfate, lime and Bordeaux F-48 gave yields significantly better than the other materials. In the dusting tests there were no outstanding differences in either yield or insect control among the 16 materials used.

From the results of the tests, the following recommendations can be made for potato disease and insect control.

For spraying — one and one half pounds of 50 percent wettable DDT combined with 2-4-100 bordeaux mixture spray. The bordeaux mixture is composed of 8 pounds of copper sulphate (blue vitriol), 4 pounds of hydrated lime and 100 gallons of water.

For dusting — 3 percent DDT in a 7 per cent copper dust.

Frequency of application varies with weather conditions and insect infestation but the 1946 test results show that applications every 10 days or oftener are advisable.

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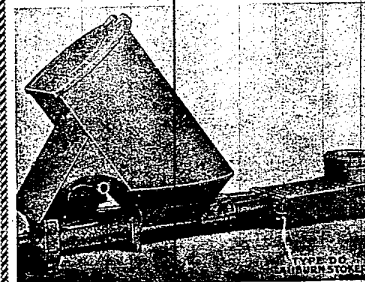
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