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FARM FEATURES

FARMERS URGED TO PLAN BEAN PLANTING NOW

June is an important month for the bean crop since most planting is done then. But Herbert Pettigrove, bean specialist at Michigan State college, says that plans must be made carefully before planting is done.

Beans can be planted in May, but they usually make a set of pods rather early. As they are maturing, a rain can cause the plant to send out new growth and make a new set of pods. The new growth makes harvest difficult and creates a problem most growers are not anxious to face.

Pettigrove lists the following rates and dates for planting various types of beans:

Pea beans (Michelle variety) — Plant the first week or ten days of June in rows 23 inches apart at the rate of 40 pounds per acre.

Cranberry beans — Plant the first ten days of June, preferably as near the first as possible, in rows 23 inches apart at the rate of 60 pounds per acre.

Kidney beans — Plant June 15 to 25 in rows 23 inches apart at the rate of 80 pounds per acre.

If beans can be dropped four inches apart in the row in a uniform manner, the spacing will be excellent. If the drill does not drop the beans uniformly in the row, enough seed must be used to avoid wide spaces between plants. Distances of 12 to 15 inches in the row without plants will reduce the yield.

The 23 inch row is standard. However, narrower spacing of the row may be used and an increase in yield obtained. The extra yield may not be any more than compensate for the extra work of caring for the extra rows but there may be a convenience in the use of equipment.

Fresh Air Needed By Turkey Poults

Turkey poults need fresh air, advises Charles Reed, extension poultryman at Michigan State college. Windows should be arranged so they can be tilted in slightly to allow fresh air to enter and circulate in the house. Lack of proper ventilation, the specialist points out, will result in damp litter and unhealthy poults.

Farmers using gas brooders should be especially watchful since these brooders rapidly use the oxygen supply in the room. Poults need plenty of fresh air in order to remain healthy.

Teamwork of Soil Management, Fertilizer Gives Top Crop Production, Builds Up Land



Poor Soil Structure Limited Root Growth and Caused Lodging of This Corn Crop.

CHICAGO—Good soil management practices must go hand in hand with heavy use of fertilizer if farmers are to get the most bushels possible from every pound of plant food used, declared the Middle West Soil Improvement Committee in a statement.

"It is one thing to put fertilizer in the ground," says the statement. "It is another to be sure the plant roots can reach the fertilizer to feed the growing crop."

"Fertilizers should be teamed up with practices that build soil structure or till. With good till roots can spread out for plant nutrients and moisture to reach the above-ground growth of crops. Vital, too, are conservation measures that will prevent erosion and keep your soil in place after it is built up."

"You can protect your soil from losses by water runoff by contour plowing, seeding and cultivation. Rainfall will then have more chance to soak into the ground."

"By using deep-rooted legumes and grasses regularly in the rotation, using fertilizer carrying phosphate and potash, returning manure and plowing back all the corn stalks, straw and crop aftermath, you can increase the organic matter content and improve the soil's structure."

State Apple Commission Releases Results Of Packaging Study

During the months of March and April, 1942, a joint project was carried on between the Michigan State Apple Commission, the Department of Economics at Michigan State College, and produce distributors in the following markets: Lansing, Grand Rapids, Southwestern Michigan, and Chicago.

The survey was on the subject of consumer and retailer acceptance for apples packed in two types of consumer units:

- (1) A 2-pound chipboard box with cellophane window and (2) a 5-pound paper bag with mesh net window.

The following are results of the study as made in 67 Chicago stores: (These represent opinions of the retailer as expressed in personal interview).

1. Do you like to handle packaged apples? Yes, 59 —no 11.
2. Do your customers like packaged apples? Yes, 78, no 22.
3. Do packaged apples have more sales appeal than loose? Yes, 63, no 37.
4. Do your customers think packaged apples are more convenient? Yes, 80, no 20.
5. Do you think packaged apples are more convenient? Yes, 91, no 9.
6. Do packaged apples increase your sales of apples? Yes, 80, no 20.
7. What weight packaged apples will sell best in your store? lb. 44, 4 lb. 3, 3 lb. 25, 6 lb. 24.
8. Will you have less shrinkage with packaged apples? Yes, 96, no 4.
9. Which package is better? Bag, 35, Box 65.
10. In your opinion, is a packaged apple feasible? Yes, 92, no 8.

(% per cent)

These opinions as expressed by retailers show definitely that the consumer package is acceptable for apples and that there is a place for both the 5-pound bag and the 2-pound box.

A further study of consumer reaction was afforded through a system of return mailing cards which were enclosed with the 2-pound box. These gave the consumer an opportunity to record reasons for buying packaged apples, weight preferences, and other significant comments. In general, it was observed that packages are so favored because of the cleanliness which is assured a consumer in the product she buys. The item of convenience was also stressed quite uniformly in these consumer responses. The results have been compiled by the Department of Economics, Michigan State College. In a series of five tables. These and other details on the entire packaging and marketing experiment are available on request from the Michigan State Apple Commission, 309 Seymour Street, Lansing, 15, Michigan.

Poultrymen who are running short of hard-to-buy grain should cull the inefficient hens from their flocks, MSC poultrymen advise.

Certified seed gives a firm foundation for good crop production.

Corn Borer Control Points Listed By MSC

A five point program for the control of corn borer is being advocated by the Michigan State college departments of farm crops and entomology. The fact that corn is a three-billion-dollar crop and is greater than any other two crops combined in acreage, dollar value, and diversity of by-products, makes borer control important.

These five points are urged: (1) Destroy old corn stalks and stubble before emergence of the moths. (2) Plant best locally adapted hybrids. (3) Plant at the best time, neither early or late. (4) Watch for egg laying and use insecticide where needed. (5) Consult the county agricultural agent for special advice.

A garden can be made profitable by using good soil, good seed, good fertilizer, and by controlling weeds, diseases and insects.

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