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FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 18

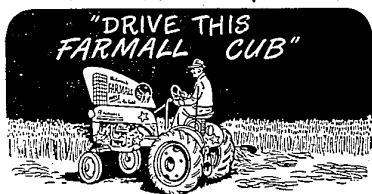
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Seek Apple Trees To Suit Growers

The apple growers' dream of hav-
ing full production at five to seven
years, continuing 20 years, and re-
placement with a rotation block of
new, young trees is the subject of
much research.

Dr. H. B. Tukey, head of the Mi-
chigan State College horticulture
department, and R. F. Carlson, MSC
horticulture research scientist, say
that considerable progress has been
made in keeping present standard
apple trees small and getting them
into production early.

Growers rely on well-grown nur-
sery stock, good sites, proper use
of fertilizers, water, and mulch. But
interest still continues in the so-
called "dwarf" and "semi-dwarf"
fruit trees.

Thus far, reliance for such trees
has been on the "Malling root-
stocks", 16 in number, which set
their name from the East Malling
Research Station in England. Root-
stocks from these trees are not
propagated by seed, but by vege-
tative means such as stem cuttings,
nurse-root grafts, root cuttings, and
the like.

To the rootstocks, the desired
varieties are budded and grafted.
Experiments show the trees devel-
op into a variety of sizes, ranging
from a tree no taller than a man
to one the size of a standard apple
tree.

Tests conducted by the Michigan
Agricultural Experiment Station
and reported in the Proceedings of
the American Society for Horticul-
ture Science involved 18 stock-
selection combinations of apple trees
on these Malling rootstocks. In-
cluded were 159 trees.

The tests show the trees have
responded favorably to growing con-
ditions on a relatively light soil
over a five-year period, including
two droughty seasons.

The trees have grown vigorously
and have developed and fruited at
about the same rate as trees of the
same type in other locations in the
eastern United States.

The Grist Mill

By ED ALCHIN

Oakland County Agricultural Agent

The use of legumes and grasses in
farming will be demonstrated
and the latest information on hay
and grass management will be
given out at the 1950 Grass Day pro-
gram.

In this area the program is sched-
uled for June 14 on the William
Bakhaus farm, located 2 miles south
of Plymouth on the corner of Shel-
don and Warren Roads in Wayne
County. The event is being plan-
ned by the Michigan State College
extension service and local plan-
ning committees, according to Ed
Alchin, county agricultural agent.

Michigan State College extension
specialists in co-operation with Mr.
Bakhaus prepared demonstration
plots of various seedings there last
fall for inspection this June by
Grass Day visitors. The plots will
reveal fertilizer results and erosion
control, and will also be used in
harvesting demonstrations.

Grass Days, which were well re-
ceived by farmers throughout the
state the past two years, are con-
ducted to bring farmers up-to-date
on the establishment, management,
harvesting, and utilization of high-
er yielding forage of better quality
according to P. R. Biebesheimer,
county agent of Wayne County, who
is general chairman.

With the emphasis of high crop
production, grassland farming has
been neglected, authorities point
out. They contend that well-bal-
anced rotation, including old crops
and grain and row crops, will pro-
vide the most satisfactory results
through a period of years.

Weed control, gully control, and
efficient use of forage, will be other
highlights of the Grass Day. New
harvesting machinery and other
farm equipment will be brought in
for visitors' inspection.

On hand will be MSC extension
specialists to explain the various
demonstrations and to discuss in-
dividual management problems with
Oakland County farmers.

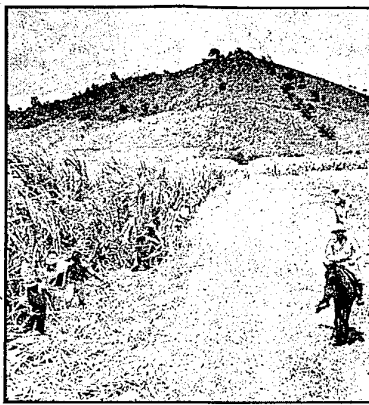
Ground Water Level
Declines In May

Following a marked jump of 1.18
feet in upstate ground water levels
in April, the conservation depart-
ment reports May readings show a
slight decline of .07 of a foot.

May measurements by state geo-
logists in the north central lower
peninsula average .25 of a foot
higher than those for the same
month last year but are .43 of a
foot below the 10-year May aver-
age.

On the 10-year average basis, the
June drop from May readings ap-
proximates only .01 of a foot.

Control of insects in the home be-
gins and ends with good house-
keeping. Insecticides do not give
complete control unless breeding
areas are cleaned up.



ECA PAYS BOTH WAYS—These men, harvesting sugar cane
in the Puerto Rican sugar fields, symbolize a dual benefit in the Economic
Cooperation Administration. The U. S. Department of Agriculture's
purchase, on behalf of the ECA, of 220,000 tons of sugar to help
feed Western Germany has also given this island's economy a big
boost. The American order provides an extra 20,000 working
hours for the men and brings in another \$20,000,000 to be used in
the Puerto Rican industrialization program.

EROSION TAKES BIG TOLL ON MICHIGAN FARMS

Michigan soils were subjected to
the most devastating erosion by
both wind and water the past winter
than has occurred in many years,
according to R. G. Hill, Michigan
State College extension soil con-
servationalist.

As farmers prepare their fields
Hill says they must remember, "the
thinner the topsoil, the lower the
crop yield." Farmers should take
this into consideration when level-
ing out the gullies and the wind-
blown areas in preparing the fields
for planting.

Last year's heavy rain falling
on cultivated land not protected by
cover crops helped cause the loss
of tons of topsoil. Fields located
on a slope which were plowed and
worked last fall and left bare over
winter show the most severe dan-
ger, the soil conservationist opined.

A few hours of high winds caused
many bare fields to be stripped of
their fertility. Hill relates that in
many sections of the state, during
early spring, it was not uncom-
mon to see regular "snow banks" of
soil along fence rows. Adding to
the soil conservation problem, is
the fact that many grass seedings
failed during the winter. "This
means less organic matter and
plant food for the soil."

Farmers may try to replace lost
seedings on sloped land with culti-
vated crops. This Hill thinks would
be one of the worst things a farmer
could do. "These areas need to be
covered with grass and legumes
along with small grains. The ap-
plication of soil saving practices
must become a regular part of
every farmer's program to keep the
soil productive," the conservation-
ist insists.

Final Tally Shows More Deer Hunters

Michigan had more deer hunters
in the field last season than expect-
ed, or at least more hunting li-
censes were sold according to final
license agent reports to the con-
servation department.

The department's final tabula-
tion of returns show a record 384,
652 resident and non-resident (gun)
deer licenses sold. The previous
all time high was established in
1948 when 351,258 licenses were
issued.

The good man's hope is laid far
— far beyond the sway of tempests,
or the furious sweep of mortal des-
tination.

FIND RUBONIC PLAGUE IN NEW MEXICO RABBITS

New Mexico department of game
and fish reports the discovery of
rubonic plague among rabbits and
warns other states against the im-
portation of cottontails, the con-
servation department discloses.

While recognizing the serious de-
velopment, Michigan game officials
see little cause for alarm in Michi-
gan since there is a conservation
law which forbids the importation
of any wild-life into Michigan with-
out a department permit. Too,
there is no reason to attempt to im-
port cottontails since Michigan has
a plentiful supply, notes Dr. S. C.
Whitlock, head of the game divi-
sion research staff.

Without attempting to create any
unnecessary concern, Whitlock
points out that the rubonic plague
belongs to the same genus or group
as tularemia. About 100 cases of
tularemia were reported in Michi-
gan 16 years ago, but since then no
considerable number of cases have
been reported.

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Paved Barnyard Pays For Itself

A concrete barnyard that cost
\$1,100 but paid for itself the first
year is a much envied possession
of Clair McLean, Gratiot county
farmer.

At the recent Gratiot county beef
feeders' tour, McLean's cattle show-
ed evidence that the paved lot
brought better gains and made
"chore time" a simple proposition.
McLean put the two lots, which
total more than 6,300 square feet,
into concrete in 1946. It cost \$1,
100 in materials and labor, not
counting ten days of his own la-
bor and that of his hired man. But
the next spring he was able to
hold 65 head of choice steers on
feed 30 days longer than many
other farmers in the locality who
did not have paved lots.

The results included a three
pound daily gain and a cent a
pound advance in price, which Mc-
Lean figures paid the cost of the
lot.

MSC FINDS HIGH INTEREST IN GRASS SILAGE

Farmers in Michigan are showing
an increased interest in grass sil-
age, Karl Vary, Michigan State Col-
lege agricultural economist, says a
survey in nine Michigan counties
showed a 300 per cent increase in
the number of farmers harvesting
grass silage in 1949 over 1948.

The most common use of grass
silage is to put first-cutting hay
and excess pasture growth into the
silo and feed it to supplement late
summer pastures. However, Vary
found more and more farmers us-
ing grass silage as a winter feed
with good results.

Michigan weather conditions for
putting up first-cutting hay are not
too good. Under customary hay-
ing practices, agricultural authorities
find that from 20 to 40 per cent of
the feeding value of hay is lost each
year. About 85 per cent of Michi-
gan's hay crop comes from the first
cutting.

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