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Commend Elimination Of Barberry Danger

Elimination of the barberry in Michigan is important to maximum yields of small grains such as wheat, oats, rye and barley, according to Michigan State College farm crops specialists. Stem-rust berries and attack small grain crops. The MSC authorities commend the work of M. E. Turner, leader of barberry eradication in Michigan, and his co-workers for their outstanding work. More than 82 percent of the state will require no further organized coverage.
The USDA bureau of entomology and plant quarantine workers covered a total of 751 square miles of territory in 1951. Progress to date has resulted in destruction of 6,668,504 bushes on 18,462 properties, Turner said. In addition to actual survey work for eradication of the barberry bushes, workers make about 3,000 close field observations of small-grain crops each year.



CLEAN FARMSTEAD LESS DANGEROUS, MORE PLEASANT

There's a practical reason for cleaning up the farmstead — not only will it make the farmstead a more attractive and pleasing place to work, it also will help prevent injuries and fires.
David K. Steimle, extension specialist in health and safety organization at Michigan State College, says that studies show that next to poor judgment, disorder is the largest single cause of injuries. Various forms of trash are responsible for hospitalizing one out of every five farm accident victims.

One of the important points in the spring clean-up is getting rid of the winter's accumulation of trash and junk in the barn, attic, basement and outbuildings. It's also a good time to get tools in the best possible condition for efficient and profitable use. This means replacing broken and missing parts, sharpening dull cutters and making proper adjustments. Tear down and dispose of broken, wobbly steps or fix them so they are safe and not accident hazards. Remove old, tattered buildings and make proper adjustments. Don't make the farmstead look any nicer and they're often the cause of serious injuries.



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Shift Of Land To Grasses Doesn't Mean Drop In Output Of Grains

"Grassland farming" is not going "all out" to grasses. R. G. Hill, Michigan State College Extension specialist in soil conservation, believes too many people have the wrong conception of the aim of those advocating grass land farming.
Shifting of more land to grasses and legumes or using more legumes in crop rotations as soil conservation measures would not result in over-all fewer bushels of grain or row crops in the future, Hill contends. Increased yields of cultivated crops following the application of other conservation practices would make up for the small decrease in total cultivated acreage.
Hill pointed to results of experiments conducted by the Michigan

State College Soil Science Department at the Ferden Farm near Chesaning. In 1951 on plots where alfalfa-brone preceded corn, the average yield was 53 bushels an acre. Where no legume was used in the rotation, the average yield was less than 14 bushels an acre. All plots were fertilized alike.
Another consideration is the fact that there are thousands of acres of rolling land on which corn is being grown where the average yield is too low to justify its continued production. This same land would produce a greater tonnage of roughage and animal nutrients if converted to grass and legumes. In addition, rolling land used for cultivated crops will continue to become less productive unless intensive erosion control practices are applied.
"If we would put more of our eroded fields that are yielding an average of 40 bushels of corn per acre per year or less into grass and legumes, and if legumes are included in regular crop rotations, our overall production could be increased without adding more acres in crops. At the same time, we would be conserving our soil for future use. There will be greater demands by people and industry from about the same number of acres as the years go by," Hill concluded.

Fertilizer Aids Legume Seedings

"A liberal application of fertilizer may make the difference between a good legume seeding and a poor one," E. D. Longnecker, extension soils specialist at Michigan State College, told farmers this week.

In fact, he pointed out that "benign" soil smoking, no seeding of legumes and grasses should be made in Michigan without a liberal application of fertilizer. "It's a paying proposition since the legumes and grasses usually are planted with a small grain crop like oats and barley. The fertilizer benefits both the grass-legume seeding and the grain."

Longnecker also made some specific recommendations for fertilizer application. Unless soil tests have been made recently and indicate otherwise, the best rate of application on heavy soils will be 250 pounds of 4-12-12, 330 pounds of 3-18-9 or their equivalent to the acre. On sandy loam soils use 500 pounds of 3-12-12 or 400 pounds of 4-16-16 per acre. On light, coarse sands and loamy soils, use 400 to 500 pounds of 3-12-12 or 3-9-18 or their equivalent to the acre.

Better seedings will be obtained on the coarse, sandy soils if the grain is planted no heavier than one bushel per acre where grass-legume seedings are made with a grain crop. If no grass-legume seeding is made with the grain, the rates of fertilization may be reduced somewhat from the above recommendations. But don't skimp on the fertilizer where the combination seeding is being made. Longnecker cautioned, pointing out that "on a long-time basis, there is no more profitable spot to use fertilizer than with grass-legume seedings because they are the crops which give the soil its

Warn Farmers Of Anthrax

Michigan State College veterinarians have issued warnings to farmers to be on the lookout for anthrax, a livestock disease which has invaded Michigan.

"They told farmers not to work with or open animals that have died from the disease. They also warned farmers to call their local veterinarian if they suspect the disease as a cause for livestock death on their place. The double warning came because anthrax is a communicable disease and it gets a foothold on a farm without proper sanitary measures it may be years before the soil is free of the disease spores."

The disease, which is believed to have come into Michigan from shipment of imported bone meal, attacks animals so fast that the first noticeable symptom usually is sudden death. If you suspect the disease contact your local veterinarian or state disease regulatory official immediately. Try to not the animals or work with the carcass without advice you may contact the disease yourself.

Animals which have died from the disease should be buried deeply or burned completely, along with manure and straw contaminated by the diseased animals. Anthrax affects all farm animals. It can be controlled if it is diagnosed before it strikes widely.

Completes Michigan 4-H Club Project Report

Michigan's 4-H Club boys and girls completed a total of 95,274 projects in 1951, according to a report completed by A. G. Kettunen, state 4-H Club leader, Michigan State College. That is the second best year on record — in 1950 about 300 more projects were completed.
There were 57,851 different boys and girls participating in the program.

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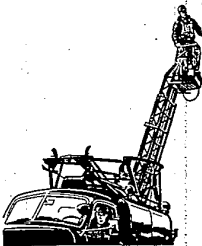
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Sprouting and storage losses of root crops controlled with maleic hydrazide

A new growth regulator, maleic hydrazide, has reduced or prevented sprouting of stored onions, potatoes, sugar beets and vegetable root crops in experiments conducted by Michigan State College Agricultural Experiment Station. Sprayed on plant leaves at specified times before harvesting, maleic hydrazide has lengthened the storage life of onions, even perishable hybrids. Treated potatoes have been kept up to 12 months without sprouting. Storage losses of carrots, beets and other vegetable root crops have been greatly reduced. For full information call, write or visit your County Agricultural Agent.



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