

Set your lawn mower so it does not cut grass shorter than one and a half inches. If you cut away too much leaf surface, the grass cannot manufacture food for new growth.

Generally fat fishes such as salmon or shad should be baked or broiled until the fat content will keep them from drying out. Lean cod or haddock, on the other hand, are best steamed or boiled.

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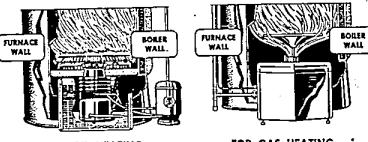
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FARM NEWS

USE NEW APPROACH IN POLLINATION OF ALFALFA CROP

M.S.C. Specialist Urges Caution In Grazing On Short Sudan Grass

A new approach to the problem of getting maximum pollination of alfalfa is being tried by Michigan legume seed producers.

E. Martin, Michigan State College entomologist, says that many growers are letting four to five colonies of bees bloom into the field soon after bloom is well started. The bees are moved from an apiary at least a mile and a half away so the bees will work the alfalfa to a greater degree in becoming oriented to their surroundings again.

Pollination of alfalfa presents a special problem because the flower must be stripped open for the pollinating insect to have pollination to take place. Although some wild bees such as leaf cutter bees and honey bees are efficient trippers of alfalfa, they are so limited in numbers that they normally only pollinate for a small seed crop.

Honey bees collecting nectar from alfalfa are not very effective in pollinating, but honey bees collecting pollen from alfalfa trip the flower fairly satisfactorily. Since honey bees often prefer to get their pollen from clovers or some other plants, it's important to bring them into the alfalfa field at the right time. That way they work the alfalfa while looking for some of their more desirable blossoms.

The Grist Mill

By Ed Achlin
County Agricultural Agent

Now that haying is just about over and you are looking forward to grain harvest, it is a good time to get your granaries clean and ready for the crop.

Grain weevils and other injurious insects will begin to hatch and work in newly stored grain, especially com and grain that may have been high in moisture. Granaries should be first swept and cleaned thoroughly—use mother's vacuum cleaner if you can get away with it—spraying with methoxychlor or DDT, three tablespoons to the gallon will take care of most of the pests present in the granary. The granary should be left open for a day or two, to air and dry out before any grains are stored. A longer airing is recommended.

Grain will be penalized again this year if moisture content is too high, also will spoil. Remember the old salt test and it will help you to determine when the grain is ready for threshing. Add a teaspoonful of salt to a pint of grain in a dry container. If the salt sticks together, the grain is not yet ready for threshing. If the salt comes out as it was put in, the grain is dry.

Clean Combine Will Mean Cleaner Grain

With grain harvest time coming up, Michigan State College farm crops specialists remind farmers that a thorough cleaning job on the combine will mean cleaner grain.

That means more than just knocking off the worst of the dust. It involves a complete clean-up to make sure the first grain that comes through will be in good shape.

Blossom-Rot May Attack Tomatoes This Year

Because of the dry weather, you may find blossom end-rot in tomatoes this year, reports Willard Brosserman, assistant county agricultural agent.

Blossom end-rot appears as a sunken water-soaked spot at the blossom end of the fruit. As this spot enlarges it turns darker in color and becomes leathery. This condition is not caused by any parasitic disease, but is caused by lack of moisture.

As soon as fruit is setting fruit, its demand for water is great. Moisture often needs to be applied. However, soil moisture can be conserved by cultivating to kill weeds and in the home garden by mulching.

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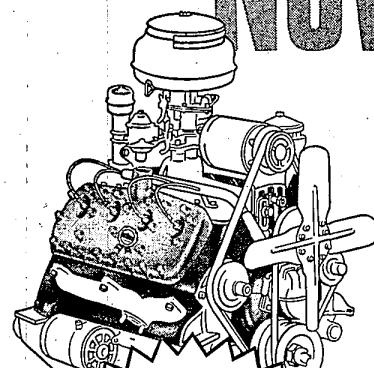
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