

Pruning Time Opens For Pine Varieties

Spring is the time to prune Scotch and red pine, advises Lester E. Bell, Michigan State College extension forester.

Il-shaped trees can be pruned and sheared and made into ones that will sell for Christmas trees, he explains. Some trees, such as spruce and Scotch pine, often grow too rapidly, making them "leggy" and open.

"This condition can be remedied by the judicious use of the pruning shears at the proper time," Bell suggests.

Scotch and red pine should be pruned in the spring when the new growth is soft and succulent. Firs and spruces should be pruned in the dormant season from November to March.

While pruning this spring, be on the lookout for sawfly eggs, adds Walter F. Morefsky, MSC entomologist.

Heifer Sales To Back Summer Trip To England

Michigan's national champion 4-H Club dairy cattle judging team will have aid in its July trip to the world contest in England when sales of heifer calves are purchased at the annual sale.

The Holstein Association appropriated \$100 and the Ayrshire men \$100.

Sales will be as follows: Jersey, April 25, at Wolverine Sales Pavilion, Williamson; Brown Swiss, April 25, and Guernsey, May 2, at the MSC Pavilion.

The team is composed of David VanDerHeuvel, Hartland, 1936 state champion; and the national showmen, all breeds, and Robert Meyer, Ypsilanti; Marilyn Tyre, Traverse City, and Donald Proctor, Chelsea.

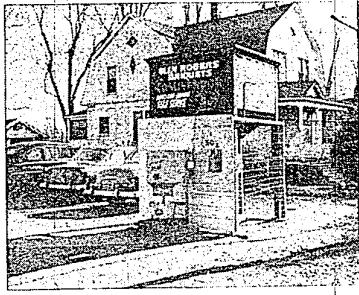
Mortality in chicks was cut from 10 or 15 per cent to 1.8 per cent in 1952, reports J. M. Moore, MSC poultry specialist. Good management and disease control were the answers.

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Robert and Harold Walton approve lateral duct hay drying system on Fergus-Lee Farm in Lapeer County.

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FARM NEWS

SWINE DISEASE MAKES OUTBREAK IN MACOMB COUNTY

Dr. Lee Davison, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Michigan Department of Agriculture, reports that Michigan was free of both state and federal quarantines for vesicular exanthema (swine disease) as of April 1.

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Plans Completed For Grass Days; Seven Exhibits To Be Held In June

Seven Grass Day programs are planned in Michigan's Lower Peninsula during June to aid farmers in obtaining better forage crops, according to Michigan State College's Grass Days committee.

The new information on seed

high-yielding, high-quality forage crops will be given by County Grass Days committees and neighboring county agricultural agents will aid the local agricultural agents in planning details and in publicity.

Programs will be open about 9:30 a.m. with conducted tours of local farms where outstanding research work is in progress. There will be machinery and other exhibits on these farms, where arrangements are being made to serve lunch to the hundreds of farm visitors.

The afternoon programs will in-

Legume Seeding Successful At MSC

One-fifth of Michigan's cropland goes into legumes — alfalfa and red clover — each year and one in ten of these acres fails, notes Milo B. Tessar, Michigan State College farm crops specialist. Legume seedings fall more commonly when made in winter than in oats.

If broadcast legume seedings on winter wheat are not done properly, April 1, Tessar recommends, winter wheat on the land will support a tractor and drill. Then discs should be set to make a half-inch deep furrow and the seed should fall in the furrows behind the discs. Rain will cover the seed.

Use of 50 pounds of superphosphate fertilizer per acre when drilling the seed should give the seedling a better start on soil of low fertility.

In 23 years of drilling alfalfa in winter wheat between April 10 and May 4 at the farm crops plots at Michigan State College, there was only one seeding failure — in an exceptionally dry year.

Most seedings are made in the spring with oats as a companion crop, points out Dr. Tessar. When both are seeded with a drill in one operation, the legume seed should fall on top of the ground behind the discs, or the legume seed may be broadcast after the oats are drilled. Oats should be held to six seeds per acre to favor the legumes.

The soil "H" should be about .77 for alfalfa and near .65 for clovers. Lime should be worked into acid soil before seeding. Two to four hundred pounds of high analysis fertilizer should be used on a good weed-free seedbed.

Slate Dairy Conference At M.S.C. On April 20, 21

Michigan State College will have its annual Dairy Fieldmen's Conference on April 20 and 21 at Kellogg Center. Topics will include control of mastitis and other diseases, storing and feeding of roughages and the dairy market situation.

Speakers will represent milk producers, the MSC dairy and other departments, milk processors and dairy equipment suppliers.



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BY CLEAN-UP

April is clean-up time in rural Michigan and the safety specialists are urging farmers to join in clean-up activities to find better places to live and work.

David G. Steinleke, Michigan State College safety specialist and Michigan Rural Council secretary, points out that cleaning up farm buildings and yards is a good way to cut fire losses in any community.

"Think of some of the recent fires you have seen," says Steinleke. "How many of them resulted from poor housekeeping?"

Ninety per cent of the fires that kill farm people or cripple them — as well as destroy homes, barns, livestock and equipment — that may represent a lifetime of savings — can be prevented, says the safety specialist.

The exhibit nearest Farmington will be held in May at the Michigan State Fair, at Marshall Knapp Rd. Ida, on Harbor Road a mile north and a mile east of Ida. Its charge will be Agent R. J. Lauer, Greening Building, Monroe.

Further information on Grass Days is available from the County Agent in Pontiac.

Planting oats deeper than recommended will not give a deep root system, according to a Michigan State College farm crops specialist.

"Regardless of how deep the oat seed is planted the permanent root system will always be initiated in the upper inch of soil," says Dr. K. E. Frey.

Seedlings get food for growth up to the ground surface from the seed; if planted too deep, they will "burn out" before breaking the surface. Dr. Frey says not to plant oats more than two inches deep.

The best yields oats should be planted during the first week that the land can be worked. Yields from second week seedings decline rapidly.

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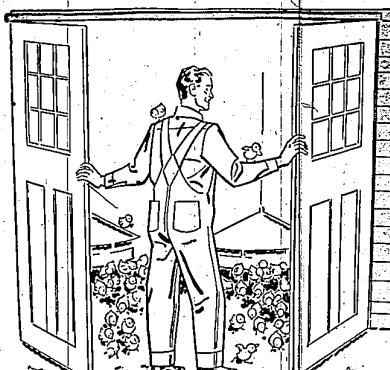
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