

1953 Spraying Calendar Now Available at MSC

The 1953 Spraying Calendar, listing diseases of fruit trees, sprays, time for spraying and other information of value to fruit growers, is now available at Michigan State College and county cooperative extension offices.

The calendar, published every year by MSC, lists methods of "concentrated" spraying, spraying materials and their use and diseases which infect Michigan

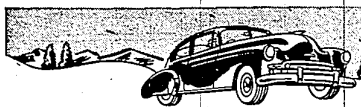
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FARM NEWS

Set Fruit Plants Early In Spring

Spring is the time to get new fruit plantings into the ground and here are some tips from a Michigan State College horticulturist on how to do it.

Clarence A. Langer, fruit specialist at MSC, says all fruit plants should be put in the ground as early as possible in the spring. This gives them a chance to get a head start for the following year.

Small fruits — raspberries, strawberries and grapes — should be planted in ground that has been under cultivation at least a year. Row crops, corn or potatoes, are preferred to precede small fruits.

It is not necessary to plant large fruit trees in land that has been cultivated. Some have been planted directly into a sod with satisfactory results, Langer notes.

Organic matter, either green manure or rotted barnyard manure, is important. Peat moss is also good but is expensive for large operations.

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Thicker Planting Of Corn Crops Gives Best Yield, Says Researcher

Corn yields on many Michigan farms can be boosted considerably by thicker planting, says E. C. Rossman, Michigan State College farm crops researcher.

Five years of testing at several locations in the state have shown that about 15,000 corn plants per acre give the best yield on average-to-good corn soils. You can estimate 15,000 corn plants per acre this way, says Rossman: When corn is planted in 40-inch rows, it takes one plant every ten inches. In 35-inch rows, a plant every 11 inches will average about 15,000 plants per acre.

Here is the way the corn yields compared with differing plant populations:

Land with 5 to 8 per cent slope should be in grass at least for one half of the rotation, and very steep slopes should be in grass continuously, says Russell G. Hill, extension soil conservationist at Michigan State College.

Such areas, he says, may actually produce more long-term income in high-quality legumes than from any other crop. Research studies show repeatedly that during the spring and fall one-third of all rainfall may run off cultivated sloping land while the water loss from good pasture is hardly measurable. During most growing periods, water itself limits high yields; on uplands it's money in the bank to hold rainfall for the crops.

A good pasture will act as an umbrella over land, protecting it from the "explosive" action of raindrops. Its root masses allow more water to penetrate the soil. A major "exploding" on bare soil breaks down clods into individual soil particles. This seals the surface, cuts down on air and water penetration and aids running water in carrying away top soil. Rain water running unimpeded down even gentle slopes carries away soil particles and organic matter.

Hill cites this example: One experiment on cultivated land showed that when the depth of top soil eroded from six to three inches, oat yields were cut from 52 to 35 bushels and corn yields were reduced more than 20 bushels per acre.

Pasture, says Hill, is not enough. High quality legume and grass mixtures, dense in growth and not over-pastured, will give land its best protection and increase its productivity.

Spring Cleanup Pays Dividends For Cattlemen

Cheeking pens for protruding tails will pay dividends for cattlemen in their spring cleanup. Eliminating the hazards, says Michigan State College veterinarians, will help prevent losses from tetanus or lockjaw.

Small wounds from the nails permit tetanus germs to gain a foothold. Not eliminating the hazard may be expensive, say the MSC specialists.

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Use Of Lime On Fields Essential To Good Crops

Judicious use of lime on fields is one of the main essentials to good soil and crop management in Oakland County. Wherever farmers raise alfalfa or other legumes, additional lime is generally needed on most Oakland County soils.

In the past, one of the problems has been to get farmers to apply lime. Now tests show that some farmers have not realized that too much lime can be as harmful as not enough. Too much lime will cause the tie-up of other elements necessary for plant growth in a form that will not dissolve.

Since plants drink their food rather than eat it, it is necessary to have the mineral elements dissolved in soil water. Certainly farmers will not want to add lime unless it is needed. Not only is this uneconomical from the standpoint of investment, but it may damage their prospects for good crop yields.

An excellent bulletin published by Michigan State College is available at the Oakland County Extension Office. It is called "Lime and Its Use". Extension Bulletin No. 314. This bulletin is an excellent guide to good liming practices for farmers. It can be obtained for the asking and gives farmers information on not only how much lime, but what kind to use and general requirements of different kinds of soil.

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