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BERRY MULCH GIVES WINTER PROTECTION

To give strawberries that little extra protection which may possibly guarantee a good crop next season, it is best you start mulching your berries for winter now, according to J. E. Moulton, Michigan State College horticulturist.

Besides giving protection from winter injury, mulching also smother weeds and retards time of blossoming. Moulton advises mulching just after the first hard frost and before temperatures drop below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Root and crown injury as well as reduced crop may result when mulching is delayed into colder weather, investigations have revealed. Wheat straw, rye straw, marsh hay, and second-grade alfalfa hay are recommended. Oak straw, sawdust, and leaves are not recommended because they tend to pack too much in mulching for satisfactory results.

Strawberry plants should be covered to a depth of three inches, Moulton said. This will require two and one-half to three tons of straw per acre. Growers should see that the material is free of seeds if possible.

As soon as growth begins in the early spring, mulch should be cleared from the plants and left between the rows. It can then be worked up under the growing plants to help keep fruit clean and at the same time conserve moisture.



MIDGET MELONS—Two junior-sized watermelons, one of which weighs only two pounds, are hefted by little Rol Anne Spezza at California's Los Angeles County Fair. The newest member of the melon family will probably meet with the complete approval of the poor housewife who has found its weightier brothers difficult to carry and impossible to cram into a refrigerator.

Death Takes Two MSC Veterinarians

Death claimed two staff members of the Michigan State College School of Veterinary Medicine on October 12.

Dr. Floyd W. Young, 43, a Perry farmer and professor of veterinary surgery and medicine, drowned when his tractor overturned and pinned him to the bottom of a water-filled ditch.

Dr. Benjamin J. Kilham, 64, extension veterinary specialist, died suddenly in a Lansing hospital following a heart attack.

Dr. Kilham, a widely known veterinarian, had served as president and secretary of the Michigan Veterinary Medical association. He had been on the MSC staff since 1930.

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Fall Leaves Start Good Compost Pile

When you burn that fall accumulation of leaves you're letting good fertilizer for your garden and shrubs go up in smoke. Dr. L. M. Turk, head of the soil science department at Michigan State College, advises. He suggests you use them to make a compost pile which will furnish artificial manure for next spring and summer.

By putting the leaves, grass clippings, mature weeds, corn fodder and straw in a pile and treating the plant refuse with commercial fertilizer and ground limestone, valuable humus may be returned to the soil, Turk reports.

The soil scientist recommends that the leaves be put into a container that can be made with a few stakes and some chicken wire. By scattering a few handfuls of 16-4 fertilizer and some ground limestone on each layer and wetting it down, bacteria action will begin which will result in decomposition.

The average city gardener can make as much as 125 cubic feet of artificial manure with leaves, 100 pounds of 16-4 fertilizer, and 25 pounds of ground limestone, the soils authority reminded. If made this fall, it will be ready for use next spring.

Reno, Nevada, divorced itself from poor government in 1947 by adopting the city manager plan.

SEE FAVORABLE LIVESTOCK PRICES FOR NEXT YEAR

Livestock producers can expect favorable prices for their products in the year ahead, and should make plans accordingly, advise agricultural economists at Michigan State College.

Their optimistic outlook is based largely on (1) expected high economic activity stimulated by government spending — high consumer incomes mean a strong demand for meat, and (2) an increasing population. Current total meat production stayed about the same for the past five years while our human population increased by 10 million. The economists predict that most cattle feeding profits in 1951 will be made on weight gains rather than margins. Feeder cattle prices are expected to continue high. Producers are advised to keep back some heifers to expand breeding herds if they have facilities and adequate feed.

With a favorable hog-corn ratio in sight, MSC economists think hog producers should find it profitable to expand production in the coming year. This ratio (bushels of corn equal in value to 100 pounds of hogs) is expected to be about 12 to 1.

If price ceilings are put on livestock products the economists believe that animals of less than top quality will probably yield the greatest net returns.



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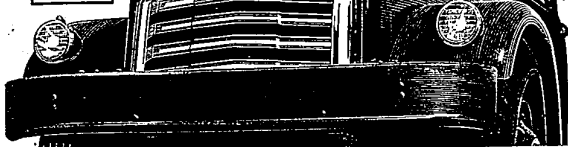
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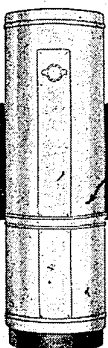


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