

FARM FEATURES

Spring Planting Time Keyed To Average Date Of Final Killing Frost

Key Date Is May 12 For Michigan

Unless you live in a tropical climate, every outdoor garden task in your locality must be timed with reference to a key date, which is the average date of the last killing frost in spring.

The number of days between this date and that of the first killing frost in the fall determines the entire list of crops which can be grown. One of the first things the amateur gardener should learn is the length of this frost-free season in his locality, and he should keep it in mind in selecting varieties of

both vegetables and flowers to grow.

In most localities there is a date in the spring which is accepted as the time when tender plants, which would be injured by frost, can be safely set out. It will probably be found to fall near the date shown on the U. S. Department of Agriculture map which illustrates this article.

The dates shown on the map for the various areas give the average

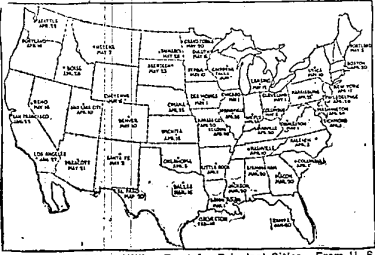
experience. There is always the chance of an exceptional year, when a frost will occur long after the average time, and many tender things may be nipped. But such risk must always be accepted in gardening. Remember that seeds of tender crops can be sown a week earlier than their plants can be set out.

Look up your location and talk to your gardening neighbors about

their practice, and you will find it easy to decide on the date to accept as safe from frost in your garden.

Of course some years you may win with a long-shot and get a crop from an early planting of a tender crop because of an exceptionally warm spring. If you want to figure the odds against this kind of chance taking, you may estimate that the risk of losing tender plants is exactly doubled, when they are set out two weeks before the frost-protection date.

There is nothing to be gained, moreover, by taking this risk with plants which have been started indoors, since they may be seriously injured by a hard frost which does not kill them, and always do best when they continue growing without a check.



Analyze Effects Of Inflation On Farm Profits

Little Inflation Good For Farmer

Does the farmer really want inflation?

L. E. Boger, agricultural economist at Michigan State College analyzes some of the effects of inflation for farmers in the January issue of Michigan Farm Economics, monthly Extension Service bulletin.

He generally agreed, he says, that a little inflation is good for the farmer. Prices of the things he sells go up faster than prices of things he buys.

But some farmers gain a lot, others much less. It all depends on what the farmer has to sell and what he must buy.

Cotton prices, for example, are now four times as high as they were in the pre-war years 1935-1939, while truck and vegetable crop prices haven't even doubled.

During the same period wood prices tripled; feed prices doubled.

On the output side, motor supplies, machinery, seed, fertilizer and some farm supplies have risen much less than farm wage rates, livestock, and building supplies prices.

Everybody loses, Boger warns, if inflation goes too far. Runaway inflation would destroy our whole monetary structure—the dollar would become worthless.

Some specific examples of how inflation works for and against the farmer is listed by Boger:

DEBTS—It's always easier to pay debts with "cheap" dollars—so being in debt during a period of inflation is sound business. It now takes far less farm products to make payments on investments such as land bought in pre-war years.

Here, however, is another good illustration of the unfairness of inflation. The debt paying ability has not increased equally for all commodities because prices have not changed in the same proportion. For example, one beef cow in December 1950 would pay off three times as much debt as it would in 1939—a can of milk twice as much.

Picking Loss Can Run High In Corn

Some recent reports of corn picking losses in Illinois are cited by A. J. Bell, Michigan State College agricultural engineer, as examples of how much of a crop can be sacrificed by improper picking.

At a mechanical corn picking contest in Illinois, it was said that 13 bushels was the average loss per acre in corn shelled off and ears dropped. Nebraska losses have been cited as high as 10 per cent at times.

Such losses are possible in Michigan, Bell said. "No farmer wants such losses," he states, "and it can be reduced by proper adjustment, slower speed, better coordination of picker and wagon, and other methods."

Forty-seven states provide state parks and forests and roadside areas totaling more than 3,300 separate units which attract more than 125,000,000 people annually.

Like moose, the elk are not fitted to thrive in the presence of civilization and seem fated to disappear except in remote regions or those under special legal protection.

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Favor Ladino For Pasture Clover

Ladino clover is a "natural" for Michigan dairy farmers because of its palatability, quick recovery after grazing, and high milk producing ability. This statement was made this week by M. B. Tesar, Michigan State College farm crops specialist, to a Farmers' Week audience.

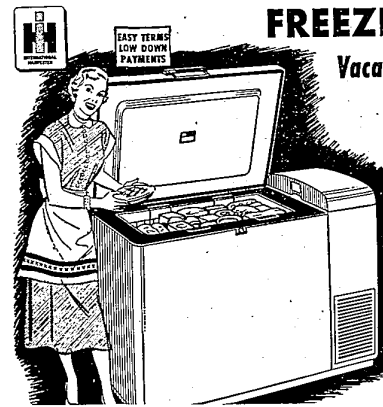
He recommends the addition of one-half pound of ladino clover per acre to a mixture of alfalfa and bromegrass on fertile, moist soils. Such a mixture of alfalfa-ladino-brome is especially suited to rolling land since alfalfa will produce most on the well-drained areas and ladino will be best on the lower areas.

Ladino clover also shows its value in a ladino-brome mixture on out two weeks before the frost-protection date.



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