

Farm Page

Mulch Apple Trees For Annual Yields

Lafayette, Ind., Jan. 28.—Apple orchardists are advised to grow their trees in sod, and mulch beneath trees with straw, strawy manure or some other organic material, instead of cultivating the trees and fertilizing them with chemical nitrogen, Dr. Clarence E. Baker advises. Mulching apple trees will promote steadily yielding trees and rejuvenate old orchards that are low in vitality, says the Purdue horticulturist.

Mulching tends to promote annual bearing of Grimes, a variety that is likely to bear fruit only every other year under most systems of soil management. Enough mulching material to prevent

growth of grass or weeds beneath trees should be used and maintained year after year.

The next best method is to sod the orchard to a low-growing grass or a grass-legume mixture and fertilize the sod and trees as needed for optimum growth. A sod-mulch system of soil management is as successful with other varieties of apple trees as it is with Grimes. Red varieties do well when mulched and seldom need nitrogen fertilizer after the mulch becomes established.

Mulching, Dr. Baker stresses, results in an excellent balance between proper vigor and moderate annual crops. Good size and good color are secured almost automatically with most varieties on clay soils.

Commercial experiences show that the same results can be expected with trees planted in sand and sandy loam. The mulch system will also help control water run-off and soil erosion on all type soils, especially on sloping orchard sites.

Dr. Baker offers a warning: To be most effective, good soil management practices must be accompanied by thorough and timely spraying to control insects and diseases of apples. Success also depends on efficient pruning and thinning of trees, and on other

sound orchards management practices in general.

Practicing modern orchard management principles will help Indiana apple growers to supply the market with higher quality fruit at a greater profit to themselves, Dr. Baker concludes.

Cut Poultry Care By Good Planning

Lafayette, Ind., Jan. 2.—Saving time and labor with the hens is a matter of using one's head to save his heels. Few farmers or their wives know exactly how much time is spent on the average daily care of hens. The U. S. Department of Agriculture set up a time standard which showed that about 25 minutes per 100 hens was spent in their daily care.

L. A. Wilhelm, assistant head of the poultry department at Purdue University, says that two measures of labor efficiency with the laying flock are distance walked per 100 hens and minutes spent per 100 eggs laid.

On several farms where detailed studies have been made, it was shown that 67 per cent of the time spent on care of the flock was divided between gathering eggs, watering, and getting the feed for the hens.

Watering hens is both time consuming and back breaking and is the biggest single job with chickens. Where running water was piped to the house, hens were cared for in one-half the time required where water was carried. For farms without running water, large water storage fountains are desirable. Each time a trip is made to the laying house, additional water can be carried. Water heaters, whether electric or kerosene, will prevent freezing.

Farmers who have feed in the laying house will cut both time and travel. Farmers spent an average of 20 per cent of the time and 34 per cent of the travel getting the feed to the house. When a bin is not available in the house, large barrels would save extra time and about 40 miles of walking per year on the average poultry farm.

Wilhelm advises gathering the eggs three times daily but doing other chores at the same time. For greatest convenience, the nests should be located in one area.

Seed Treatment Necessary For Oats

Seed treatment is one of the practices which every oats producer should religiously follow, thinks Paul Jackson, county agent. Treating is done to control blight and smut diseases of oats. Since new virulent races of smuts and blights are continuously appearing, and since new diseases may attack oats at any time, it is just good business to have the ounce of prevention ready in the form of treated oats. It's the same principle as installing lightning rods to protect a building.

Clinton and Benton oats were developed to be resistant to Victoria Blight and the smut diseases which virtually destroyed the older varieties. However, it still is advisable to treat Clinton and Benton to control attacks of the more virulent strains of these diseases which may cause damage. Treating will help to eliminate "damping-off" of oat seedlings, and in experimental tests treating has increased the yield of Clinton. Because of resistance to diseases, stiffness of straw, superior test weight and higher yields, Clinton 59 and Benton are the two varieties recommended for production in Kosciusko county.

Proper treating of seed oats does not reduce the germination of the oats seed. Recent reports of low germination of oats planted last spring have been generally traced to storage conditions and were not caused by seed treatment.

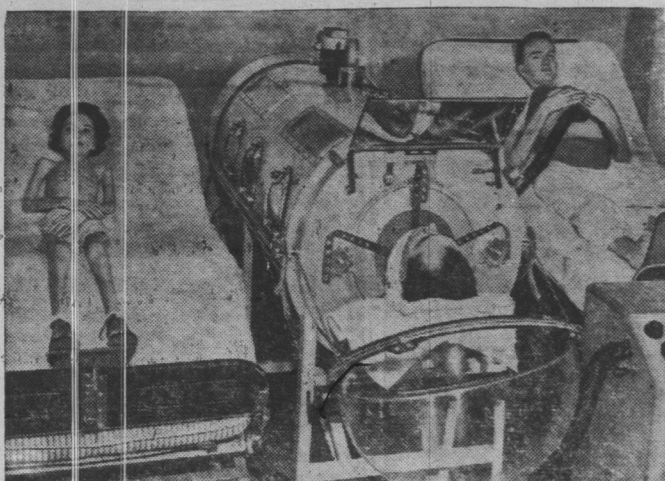
If Ceresan is used to treat seed oats, treatment should be applied at least 24 hours before seeding, but oats may be safely treated as long as 90 days before they are planted. If planting is to occur within two weeks of treating, ½-ounce of Ceresan should be applied per bushel of oats. If more than two weeks are to elapse between treating and sowing, the rate of treatment should be reduced to ¼-ounce per bushel of seed.

W. S. C. S. TO MEET
The W. S. C. S. Circles will meet as follows, on Thursday, Feb. 7th: Circle Two—With Mrs. Alva Nicolai in the evening, highlighted with a Silent Auction.
Circle Three—One o'clock Luncheon with Mrs. Dorothy Harris.
Circle Four—Six-thirty pot luck supper in the church basement with hosts, Dr. and Mrs. Otto Stoelting.

Circle One is not meeting until further announcement.

Miss Irene Abts spent a few days this week in the home of her brother, Henry Abts and family in Kokomo.

Three Ways to Breathe



Here are three different breathing mechanisms—all provided with March of Dimes funds—which assist polio patients at the Southwestern Polio Myelitis Respiratory Center in Houston, Texas. Nine-year-old Charlotte Sword (left), of Houston, is on the rocking bed. Dr. Joseph H. Nelson (center), young Berger, Texas, physician, is in the large iron lung equipped with plastic oxygen dome. Steve Spearman, 20, of Hot Springs, Ark., breathes with aid of a chest respirator. This year's March of Dimes is being conducted during all of January.

Baby Pigs Need Heat In Cold Weather

Whenever the temperature drops below 45 degrees, baby pigs need additional heat to keep them warm. Each year in the U. S., 3,000,000 baby pigs die by chilling. According to recent experiments at Purdue University, farmers can use electric heat lamps for less than 18 cents a day to help reduce these losses.

Purdue Agricultural engineers have prepared Extension Leaflet 318, "Save More Pigs with Heat Lamps." In this publication the authors have pointed out that heat lamps should be used during farrowing and for at least two weeks after farrowing if the temperature drops below 45 degrees.

Heat lamps can also reduce death losses caused by the sow crushing the baby pigs. If a

heat lamp is moved over a protected corner of the farrowing pen—a corner where the baby pigs can go but the sow cannot—the baby pigs will stay away from the sow except at feeding times.

Illustrations and instructions for installing a heat lamp have been included in this leaflet along with many suggestions for using one safely.

Copies of the leaflet are available from the local county agent or may be obtained by writing to the Agricultural Publications Office, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

Several events on the February calendar of interest to rural Indiana will be held at Purdue University. They include the Indiana Cannery, Fieldmen and Growers Conference, Feb. 4 to 7; the Hoosier Cooperative Clinic on Feb. 11 and 12; and the Turkey Trot for poultrymen on Feb. 13 and 14.

TIMELY TOPICS

By Mrs. Ruth R. Snellenberger
Home Demonstration Agent

(For Jan. 28-Feb. 2nd)

Several features in the kitchen of Rev. and Mrs. R. W. Loose of Oakwood Park, Syracuse, I'd like to describe inasmuch as it was not possible to include it in the kitchen tour. There's a compactly arranged U-shaped kitchen with revolving shelves in base cabinet or one corner. Above it and under the wall cabinets was constructed a garage for an electric mixer. Have you seen one like that?

A pass-through from the kitchen to the dining room was another convenient feature. This was a drop shelf into the dining area.

A pullout grocery shelf just wide enough to hold two commercially canned food items and extending the full height of the work surface was another feature. There were three or four shelves open on either side of the pull-out but having a center partition for support. Being on casters it was easy to pull out or push back into space.

When discussing the planning of meals with a group of women, frequently several of them will say, "I can't get my husband to eat vegetables," or "How can you get men to eat salads?" or "My husband just wants meat and potatoes."

I do not assume to know all the answers, let me assure you. A number of women have told me that their husbands eat more vegetables now since they had spent some time in the service. Does this show that men could eat more vegetables?

Another aspect to consider is that men feed livestock the proper food so that they will become the right quality meats, and that

men fertilize soil so that it will yield a good crop. These items are sold, usually, so that a money return is realized. But when man selects his own food, he realizes good health, happy relationships with his family and neighbors. It's a value that you can't put your finger on!

And Homemakers, it's your responsibility to play and prepare these proper foods!

ENLISTS IN NAVY

John Bushong, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. Bushong, has enlisted in the U. S. Navy. He will go to Great Lakes, Ill., Monday, for final physical examination and, if successful, will go into "boot" training there immediately.

Everett Dunn is spending this week in St. Louis, Mo., on business.



What is your doctor's name? What is his phone number, and where is his office located? You may need to know—quickly—in an emergency and if you have this information at your finger tips, you are a very practical and far-sighted person. And even if you are one of those fortunate people who have seldom, if ever, needed medical treatment, it is only good common sense to know which doctor you would call, long before you need him. Make it your business, therefore, to have your doctor's address, phone and office hours in your telephone index. And to complete the preparedness program, make note of our name and phone number, too, against the time when you may need reliable prescription service.

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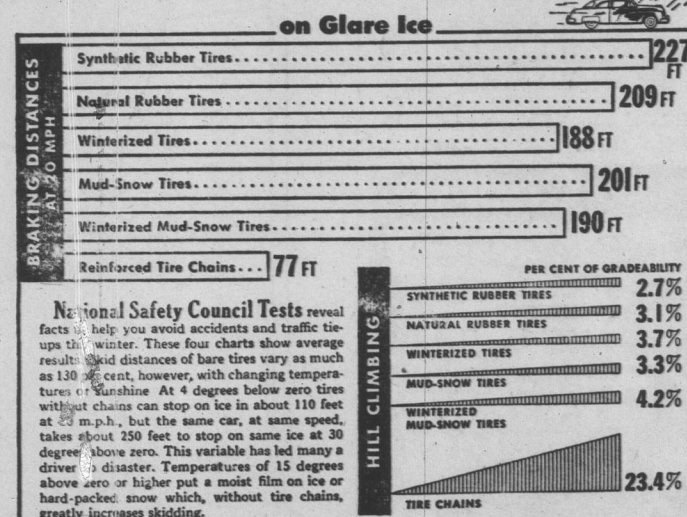
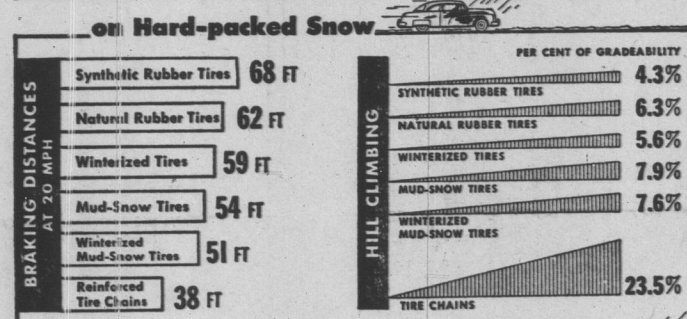
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