

News and Information FOR THE BUSY FARMER

[Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture]

Don't Forget the Garden

Thousands of families throughout the country are planning now to use the available garden land to provide food. If people on the land would consider the number of meals that must be prepared during the year and estimate the actual earning power of a garden, more and better gardens would be planted in order to provide a continuous supply of summer and winter vegetables. A garden of one-quarter to one-half an acre in extent, properly cared for, will provide enough vegetables for an average family.

Increasing Yields

The application of a definite scheme of crop rotation is being found an important factor in reducing feed costs. The chief advantages of such a practice are:

- (1) Maintaining and increasing soil fertility, thus increasing yields.
- (2) Assisting in weed control.
- (3) Assisting in the control of insect and crop diseases by having various crops on fresh soil each year; and it makes a more even distribution of labor throughout the year possible. Increasing the yield per acre is one of the best ways of reducing cost of production, and in this respect crop rotation plays a real part.

Cutworm Control

At this time of year all gardeners should be prepared for attacks of cutworms. A limited number of plants may be saved by a wrapping of brown paper around each. Application may be made at planting time and the paper should cover the plant from one inch below the ground surface to one-half or one inch above. For larger plantations a poison bran mixture is recommended. Bran 25 lbs.; Paris green 1/2 lb.; Molasses 1 qt., and water 2 gals. The bran and poison should be mixed together while dry, after which molasses should be added. Use enough water to bring the mixture to a crumbling condition. The mash should be sprinkled lightly around plants in the evening. This mixture is poisonous to chickens and birds, as well as cutworms.

Report on Insects

Eastern Tent Caterpillars are more numerous than usual on neglected apple and plum trees and especially on wild cherries, in almost all parts of Old Ontario. Forest Tent Caterpillars are reported to be even more numerous than last year north and west of Gravenhurst.

Wireworms, the last week in May, began to cause much damage to spring grain and there have been many reports of injury. In all cases the crops infested were planted on ground that has been broken up from sod one or two years ago. Evidently the cool weather is making the damage greater than would ordinarily be the case, because it is retarding the development of root growth of the plants without affecting feeding by the wireworms. White Grubs have begun to feed, but as most of them are believed to be in their third year and will cease feeding before long, it is not thought they will be so destructive as last autumn.

Pear Blister Mite has come conspicuously to the front this spring, and on young pear trees is very much more abundant than for many years.

Cabbage Worm adults—white butterflies—are already on the wing and are laying eggs on cabbage and cauliflower. They are numerous enough, provided weather conditions are favourable, to become a bad pest again this year. Growers should dust their cabbages and cauliflowers with an arsenical just as they begin to come into head.

Crop Report Summary

Potatoes—The late spring with an unusual amount of rainfall delayed planting of early potatoes in many districts, and a number of fields are spotty due to some rotting of seed. Up to the present time growth has been slow, but with warm weather and plenty of soil moisture more rapid development may be ex-

pected. It is too early yet to predict when the date of the early potato crop will be ready for market. The acreage of late potatoes will be about the same as last year, but planting will be somewhat later than usual as farmers have been busy trying to get their earlier crops sown.

Sugar Beets—Approximately 20 thousand acres of sugar beets have been contracted for this season by the two factories at Chatham and Wallaceburg as compared with 50 thousand acres last year. The soil, in general, is in excellent condition but frequent rainfalls have delayed seeding, and about 20% of the intended acreage remained to be seeded on June 1st. Precipitation for the month of May at Chatham amounted to 2.76 inches. Thinning is already under way on early planted fields and there is every indication of a good crop. Contract prices are the same as in 1936, namely \$5.25 minimum for factory delivery, and \$4.50 for weigh station delivery, with a bonus for beets with sugar content over 14%.

Shallow Tillage for Weed Control

Experiments conducted by the Field Husbandry Division of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, prove that shallow cultivation after a clean hoe crop is better than ploughing. The reasons given are that when the surface has been kept clean during the season, weed seeds in the top two or three inches have germinated and been pretty well destroyed. Below this there may be many weed seeds that have not germinated but still retain vitality to do so if brought to the surface. Ploughing in this case would turn under soil that is free from weeds and bring to the surface soil infested with weed seeds. Cultivating the surface in preparation for the spring seed-bed should not

CHERRY GROVE W. I.

A pleasant afternoon was spent at the home of Mrs. W. A. Dickie on Thursday, June 3rd, when the members of the Cherry Grove Women's Institute met for their June meeting. Mrs. W. A. Dickie presided. After the usual opening exercises the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A lengthy discussion followed re the District Annual to be held at New England on Tuesday, June 22. Mrs. R. J. Boyce was appointed delegate.

The program consisted of a paper, "The Uses of Salt", by Mrs. Dickie and a "Pat" contest by Mrs. Bowen, which was won by Miss Minnie Swanton. The meeting closed with the National Anthem after which a dainty luncheon was served by Mrs. M. Pendleton, Mrs. Geo. Swanton and Miss Minnie Swanton.

molest the weed seeds that are lying dormant, and the chances are that the crop would be reasonably clean. On the other hand, surface soil that is infested with weeds may be turned under where they will not bother for a year or two. It is claimed that shallow tillage is more effective than deep tillage in the control of annual and biennial weeds, and is also effective in the control of perennials such as couch grass and sow thistle.

After harvest cultivation destroys a good many of the annual weed seeds which have ripened ahead of the grain. Allowing the perennial weeds to grow until the weather is hot and the roots have weakened, then ploughing and allowing the furrow to dry out before starting cultivation is quite effective in controlling both couch grass and sow thistle. Both these weeds infesting a sod field may be pretty well cleaned out by ploughing soon after a hay crop is taken off and leaving the furrow to dry out before it is worked. This land may then be thoroughly cultivated during the late summer and sown to wheat or left over for a spring crop. A more vigorous attack on weeds would tend to larger and more economical yields of grain.



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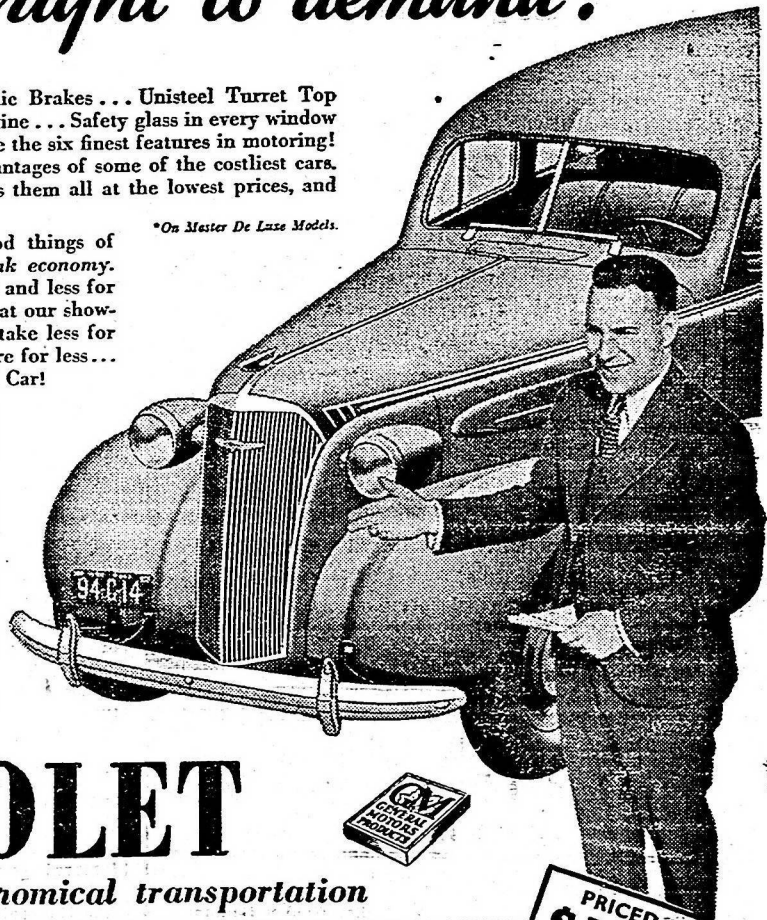
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