

FARM NEWS

Weed Menace Studied by Farmers, Municipal Heads

"Why didn't 2-4-D kill Wild Carrot on our township roads in 1953," was the keynote of the special meeting sponsored by Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association on Friday afternoon in the court house, Milton. The meeting was opened by president Fred Nurse of the Soil & Crop Improvement Association. That the members of Halton's municipal councils as well as many farm leaders are concerned by the weed menace was indicated by the presence of the following township and county officials.

Estuering Township: Reeve Wilfrid Bird, councillors George Curran and Spencer Wilson and road superintendent William Townsend.
Trufalgar Township: Reeve E. F. Ford, deputy reeve Robt Marshall, and councillor Ernest Henderson.
Nelson Township: Reeve George Bronhola and Councillor Leonard Coulson, Nassagaweya Township: Reeve A. R. Service, County of Halton: Warden J. J. Stewart and county engineer Roy Smith.

Following a report from a representative of each municipality, a panel chaired by agricultural representative J. E. Whitelock took on the job of trying to find the answer to Halton's problems. The panel was composed of Prof. C. Waywell of the Botany Department, Ont. Agricultural College, A. H. Martin, director of the Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch, Toronto, Wilfred Nickels, weed inspector for Kent County, Kenneth McNaught, formerly district weed inspector for the Ont. Dept. of Agriculture and now with Green Cross Chemicals; James Neale of Niagara Spray Co. As prominent farmers in the audience began to take part in the discussion and revealed they personally had had no trouble in killing Wild Carrot with 2-4-D on their open farms, nor where they sprayed through their own fence onto the road allowance it became evident that in some cases at least, spraying was not commenced early enough. The experts were agreed that to be effective 2-4-D should be applied when the Wild Carrot is growing rapidly — while growth conditions vary in different years, that would appear to indicate late May or early June.

The second possible solution, may be that due to the type of nozzle or pressure, the spray was broken down into too fine a mist and in a season such as June, 1953, the green foliage did not receive sufficient material to do a killing job.

Not a Problem in Kent

County weed inspector Wilfred Nickels of Kent revealed that while Wild Carrot is prevalent in that county, they do not experience any difficulty in killing the weed either with 2-4-D or a mixture of 2-4-D and 2-4, 5 T. Mr. Nickels who has many years experience both as a custom weed sprayer as well as county weed inspector, reported that you must wet the plant to the point where the spray solution is about ready to run off. In their experience a 500 gal. tank will normally cover one side of the road for five miles. Mr. Nickels is also of the opinion that soft water or water from a stream should be used with the 2-4-D rather than hard water.

Farm or Roadside Weeds

County engineer Roy Smith was inclined to question the wisdom of attempting to control roadside weeds when just inside the road fence many operators were not doing very much about attempting to control weeds on their own farms. County weed inspector Nickels pointed out, however, that if a job is to be done on the farms, the road authorities must set an example. With this contention, the majority of those present were in agreement. Those in attendance were surprised to learn that in the county of Kent, the county weed inspector has an eleven months' job. True, Mr. Nickels operates a 50 acre farm, but at that normally he spends about twenty days each month on his job



SAM DONAHUE
with the
BILLY MAY Band

"A tidal wave of fresh, musical expression!" That's the way a prominent music critic spoke of the famous Billy May Band — and that's what Sam Donahue is bringing next Tuesday, April 6 to the Guelph Memorial Gardens ballroom.

This exciting new orchestra, considered to have had one of the fastest rises to fame following its Capitol Recording releases and appearances around the country will continue to feature the sound of the "slurping saxes." April Ames is vocalist with the band.

Both Billy May and Sam Donahue have an enviable backlog of entertaining the public. Sam has toured extensively with his own orchestra, playing the leading ballrooms, schools, theatres and hotels throughout the country. Along with this, Donahue is a fine musician and arranger. With this combination of talent and experience it was only natural that Billy May should choose Sam to take over the helm of his band. May is planning to devote his full time to his Capitol Records work in Hollywood.

FARM NEWS

Farmers Must Watch Seed Grain Advertising

J. E. W.
As we look over the "For Sale" ads in our county weeklies — we note some of our farm operators advertising seed grain and small seeds without government grade and control certificate number. What they are offering may be excellent clean seed — on the other hand it may be one of the reasons why Halton showed up so poorly in both the 1951 and 1952 seed drill surveys. Aside from that, it is contrary to the Canada Seeds Act, and farm operators so doing, are liable for prosecution.

It is quite likely that those guilty of this practice are not aware of the legislation, hence the reason for this tip. With all the good grain shown at the 1954 Seed Fair at Milton, all backed by government grade, there isn't much excuse for not knowing what you are sowing this spring. The margin between No. 1 seed oats, with bags, and treated, at 1.40 per bushel, against unknown seed even at \$1.00 per bushel, without bags and not treated, represents around 65 or 70 cents an acre. That surely is a small investment when one considers the cost of plowing, tillage, fertilizer, harvesting and taxes. It may well mean the difference between a good crop and a poor one. How can we hope to clean up our fields and farms if we sow weed seeds? Halton farm organizations are demanding more rigid enforcement of Ontario's weed control act. The members of the 1954 county council committee on agriculture are out to see that a better job is done — so we expect to see some progress this summer.

as weed inspector:

"I know where the dirty fields are and at this time of year I get around to see the operators and advise them to put in a crop which can be sprayed, like corn, in fields which are very dirty. They then know when I come back and their fields are dirty, that they can look for trouble."
"Farmers in Kent are asking for help, and appreciate any guidance I can give them — consequently we have little trouble in enforcing the Weed Control Act."

Township Inspectors Too!

Kent County has ten townships, and with the exception of one, the other nine have anywhere from one to three Township Weed Inspectors. Mr. Nickels assured there was no overlapping or duplication of effort. The district, county and the township inspectors work as a team. That Kent County is getting results is borne out by the 1952 Seed Drill Survey. In that year, of the 14 Western Ontario counties participating in the Seed Drill Survey, Kent stood at the top, with 82 per cent No. 1 seed, and 14.5 per cent rejected samples. In the same year, Halton's seed drill survey revealed 54 per cent No. 1 seed, and 25.8 per cent rejected seed. This incidentally was a considerably better showing for Halton than in 1951.



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The Wolf and the Crane

A WOLF once got a bone stuck in his throat. So he went to a Crane and begged her to put her long bill down his throat and pull it out. "I'll make it worth your while," he added. The Crane did as she was asked, and got the bone out quite easily. The Wolf thanked her warmly, and was just turning away, when she cried, "What about that fee of mine?" "Well, what about it?" snapped the Wolf, baring his teeth as he spoke; "you can go about boasting that you once put your head into a Wolf's mouth and didn't get it bitten off. What more do you want?"

MORAL: Many a man who takes long chances has nothing to show for it afterwards. Isn't it wiser to put part of your salary, every pay day, into a savings account with The Canadian Bank of Commerce? Then you will really be able to laugh at the wolf of adversity.



Illustration by Arthur Rackham, from the Heinemann Edition of Aesop's Fables.

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