



This is a scene taken on the farm of Frank A. Reesor R.R.1, Markham and typical of many properties throughout the whole of York County where tons of rain-soaked bales of hay have been placed in piles and burned. Farther north, conditions are even worse, especially in the market garden areas of the Holland Marsh. —Staff Photo.

Hay Crop Goes Up In Smoke On Markham Farm



On many farms in York County, the hay loss has been estimated at over seventy percent. Some farmers are merely blowing their crop back onto the ground as fertilizer. Owners are requesting government aid since only a few are carrying crop insurance. A meeting held at Newmarket last week resulted in the appointment of a committee to assess the loss. —Staff Photo.

Farm Tribune

Two To Three Cuttings Possible With Alfalfa

August is the last chance to harvest forage crops, advises Dr. Jack Winch, Department of Crop Science, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph. Cutting alfalfa in September while the plants are storing food in their roots for the winter may kill the stand.

After August there is very little top growth in forages, as plants are channeling a great deal of the manufactured food into their roots. This is required for strong root development and the production of new buds for the crop next year. A top growth of six to eight inches is needed during the month of September for this development.

Three cuttings of alfalfa should be possible in Southwestern Ontario if each is cut early enough. Areas to the north can produce two crops. If the last crop is taken during the middle or latter part of August, the plants still have plenty of time to develop for the winter.

The month of September is also the time to apply fertilizer to forage stands, says Dr. Winch. Plants need and use high quantities of phosphorus and potassium during the food build-up period. To get the most for their fertilizer dollar, farmers are advised to have their soil analyzed for correct fertilizer requirements. Applying fertilizer in the fall is the best time, since this will help the crop over winter. Next year's production will also benefit from the fall application of nutrients.

GARDEN GUIDE

DO IT NOW

By JOHN BRADSHAW, Garden Editor

The luxuriant growth and greenness of the lawns at this time can leave home gardeners with a false sense of security. The rains are causing the grass plants to form roots very close to the surface and when the weather turns hot and dry, as it's bound to sooner or later, the quality of the lawns will deteriorate very quickly. Whatever happens, don't give up the once a month feeding program. You couldn't pick a better time to aerify the lawn than right now. Immediately afterwards give the lawn its July feeding and water the fertilizer in. This will ensure a thick green lawn later in the year when the weather returns to normal.

The abundant moisture also gives fungus diseases like black spot and mildew the ideal conditions they need for development. Plants such as roses, perennial phlox, zinnias and others that are particularly susceptible to fungus diseases should be dusted or sprayed with an all-purpose fungicide at least once a week. To be on the safe side the treatment should be done after every heavy shower. Make sure that you dust or spray both sides of the leaves.

Crabgrass germinated late this year and because of the heavy rains of the last few weeks is now growing luxuriantly. Right now it's two or three inches high with light green leaves that look quite a bit like annual summer grass. It's most important to kill these plants so that they won't contaminate the lawn for 20 to 50 years to come. A single crabgrass plant has been known to produce 100,000 seeds. There are a number of chemicals on the market that will kill mature crabgrass plants. Some are in a dry form and can be applied with a fertilizer spreader. Others are liquid for use in sprays. The dry forms are more expensive but easier to use. The liquids are more effective.

It will be almost impossible to buy onion sets from now on. If you want fall green onions, sow some seeds of White Portugal or Crystal White Wax.

It's too hot in this part of southern Ontario to sow a fall crop of most varieties of garden peas. Fortunately, there's a new variety called Wando that will produce a crop in September.

Now is the time to set cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprout and broccoli plants in the garden for use this fall and winter. Try and buy the Jade Cross variety of Brussels sprout, which outperforms all others in the southern Ontario heat.

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	Local Frt.	45.00
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	7 1/2 % Exchange	132.23
	Adv. Frt.	39.22
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	Setting up and Delivery	35.00
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FARMING REPORT by AL WALL

I'm afraid that last week's report was far too optimistic about saving the hay crop. Several storms later, the prospects aren't nearly as good.

Hay that has been baled and stored is poor, and a lot still on fields will have to be burned or used for bedding. Protein levels in what is still to be cut, will be low for sure so that grain and concentrates will have to be a big factor in next winter's feeding.

In the meantime, we can only hope for a reasonable second crop. With hay the basic feed on close to a thousand farms in York, the effect of the phenomenal rains will stretch out over the next twelve months.

Wheat has been affected too. Root rot has occurred on a few fields that I know of. The symptoms are black stems just above the ground and dead roots. I expect that too much moisture and humidity is causing the disease to be more prevalent than usual. With

Ask Aid In Rain Disaster

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture will ask the Ontario government to assist farmers with heavy losses from the unprecedented rain of the last few weeks.

Worst affected are crops on low land, where June rainfall of 15 to 18 inches (against the usual two inches) has turned the ground into a swamp.

Other farmers are even enjoying the rain. Pasture is excellent in most areas. Hay crop will be ample, according to the Ontario soils and crop branch and of good quality - providing there is enough leup in the rain to permit haying. Corn is average, spring grains are growing well and winter wheat should be heavy, a spokesman last week told Farm and Country.

The Ontario Crop Insurance has received only 10 claims from 275 policyholders in spring grain.

But some farmers growing fruits and vegetables in the Holland Marsh area are facing ruin. At two stormy meetings at Beeton and Newmarket, the growers demanded government aid to stave off bankruptcy. Some potato growers, having invested \$125 per acre in seed, labor and fertilizer, find their crop a write-off.

A survey by OFA staff at the two meetings showed 97 percent of tomatoes lost or damaged in South Simcoe. Average lost went as high as 40 percent for corn, 44 percent for barley and 40 percent for market vegetables.

The vegetable market reacted in panic fashion to the news, with lettuce increasing to 49 cents from 39 cents a head. But produce flowed in from other areas in response to the high prices. Result: within a few days the market was glutted and lettuce was selling down to 19 cents.

OFA President Charles Munro told growers the federation would not back demands for assistance for losses to spring grains. These, he said, could have been insured with the Ontario Crop Insurance Commission.

Growers complained the insurance premiums are too costly and that the commission's policies weren't adequately publicized.

Farmers Save Time Storing Chopped Hay

Easier handling is the advantage of putting up forages in a chopped form, says Dr. W. S. Young of the Crop Science Department at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. The benefits of chopping for silage making are well-known and commonly used. Chopping hay is not so extensive. But, chopping hay at moisture levels of 35 to 40 percent can save precious nutrients through lower leaf losses, provided some arrangement is made to dry the hay in the mow to a safe storage level.

Chopped hay can be handled more easily by mechanical means and does not require silage storage facilities. The hay is cut at the same stage as for other systems of forage storage. The hay crop is conditioned and allowed to wilt down to about 35 percent moisture. Then it is chopped.

The chopped hay is moved into storage where either a heat or natural air barn hay drier is used. Agricultural Engineers with the Department of Agriculture and Food will advise farmers on the best type of drying structures to use in their operations. Natural air driers are quite satisfactory for the job. Farmers are advised to be sure their drier is large enough to handle the amount of chopped hay they have to put up.

4-H Farm School

A new program for York County 4-H members starts next week at Newmarket. It's called 4-H Farm School and runs for three days, starting on Monday, July 24.

4-H members from all parts of the county will go by bus to the Huron Heights High School at Newmarket, for the first part of each day. Well illustrated talks and demonstrations will be given at the school by staff from the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

Main topics will include beef and dairy cattle management as well as farm mechanics.

Afternoon sessions will be spent visiting farms in York, that illustrate practical and up-to-date farming methods.

The School is part of a revised 4-H programme for York and is being supported by the Agricultural Committee of York County Council.

Simcoe Reels From Record Deluge

Weather damage to crops in Simcoe county is worse than during Hurricane Hazel in 1954, more than 400 farmers were told at a special meeting in Beeton this month.

The meeting was called by Simcoe Federation of Agriculture following the torrential downpour. After a month of heavy rain, a violent storm the night of June 28 poured inches of water in two hours on already waterlogged ground.

A. W. Downer, MPP (PC-Dufferin-Simcoe), who made the comment about Hurricane Hazel, pledged that something would be done to help. He called for a broadening of Ontario's crop insurance program.

(The fledgling crop insurance program last fall began with insuring winter wheat; this spring the commission added spring grains to its program.)

Mr. Downer noted that rainfall varied from 17 inches at Collingwood to 14.4 inches at Sharon in a four-week period. Two to three inches would have been a about normal.

A questionnaire filled in by those present showed loss or damage to 97 percent of the tomato crop, 75 percent of vegetables, 70 percent of corn and grains.

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