

Popular spring plant

The large colorful hydrangea is an all-time favorite for both Mother's Day and Easter. Its massive, white, red, or blue flower clusters and dark green leaves add a spring-like atmosphere to any home.

Locate the hydrangea in a sunny, warm area of the house. This plant uses a lot of water and may require watering twice a day but must never be allowed to stand in water. When it is in full bloom the plant's flower should not receive full sunlight, as this will cause early fading.

Many home owners like to carry hydrangea over from one year to the next in the garden. As soon as the plant has finished growing, keep it in the light and continue watering. After danger of frost has passed, plunge the pot in an acid or peat soil outdoors, in partial shade. Keep the plant well watered and feed every two weeks all summer. It may require a monthly dose of iron sulfate.

If the plant grows too tall pinch the new growth in early July. This will allow time for new shoots to develop and flower buds to set. In August, move the plants to full sunlight to promote bud setting. Prior to frost, move the plants into cool, dark storage. Hydrangea require very little water in storage at 45°F but keep the plant moist. During the storage period the foliage will drop off and should be removed to prevent mildew.

After Christmas place the hydrangea in full light at 65°F and repot if necessary. Keep the soil in the pots just moist until the plants have made new roots and shoot growth then gradually increase the watering. Feed with a complete plant food and iron sulfate on alternate weeks until flowering has finished. Plants started in this way should bloom after Easter time.

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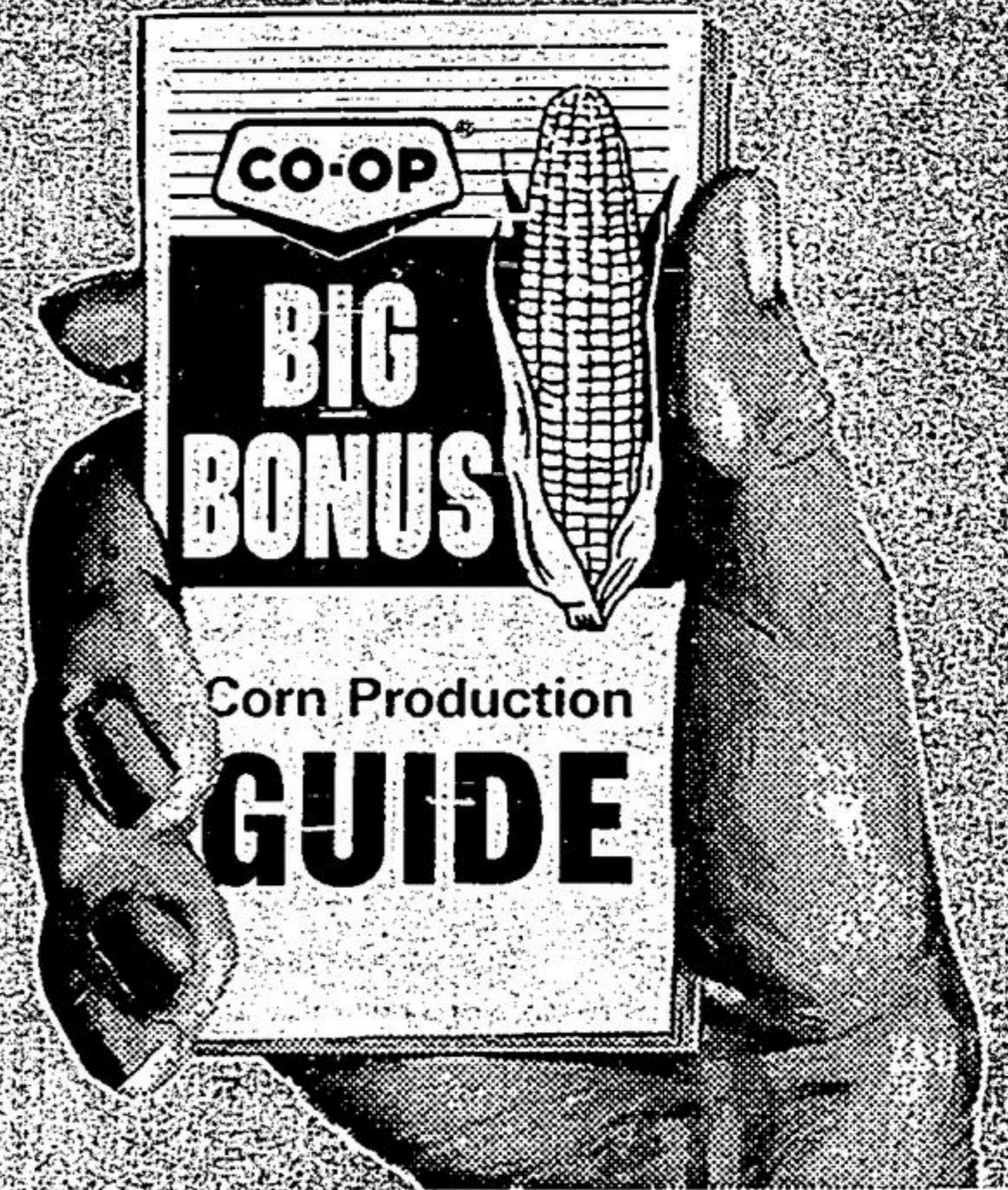
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5 KEY STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL BARLEY PRODUCTION

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1. Proper selection of barley variety

It is important to select the right variety for your area. Various strains of barley have different degrees of resistance to mildew, smut, lodging etc.

2. Early planting of barley

Earlier planting should result in shorter plants which in turn increases lodging resistance. Plants develop heads earlier so they have more time to fill out.

3. Fertility applications

Adequate fertilization is essential for maximum yields. CO-OP* Big Bonus 16-8-12 Fertilizer was developed especially for Barley.

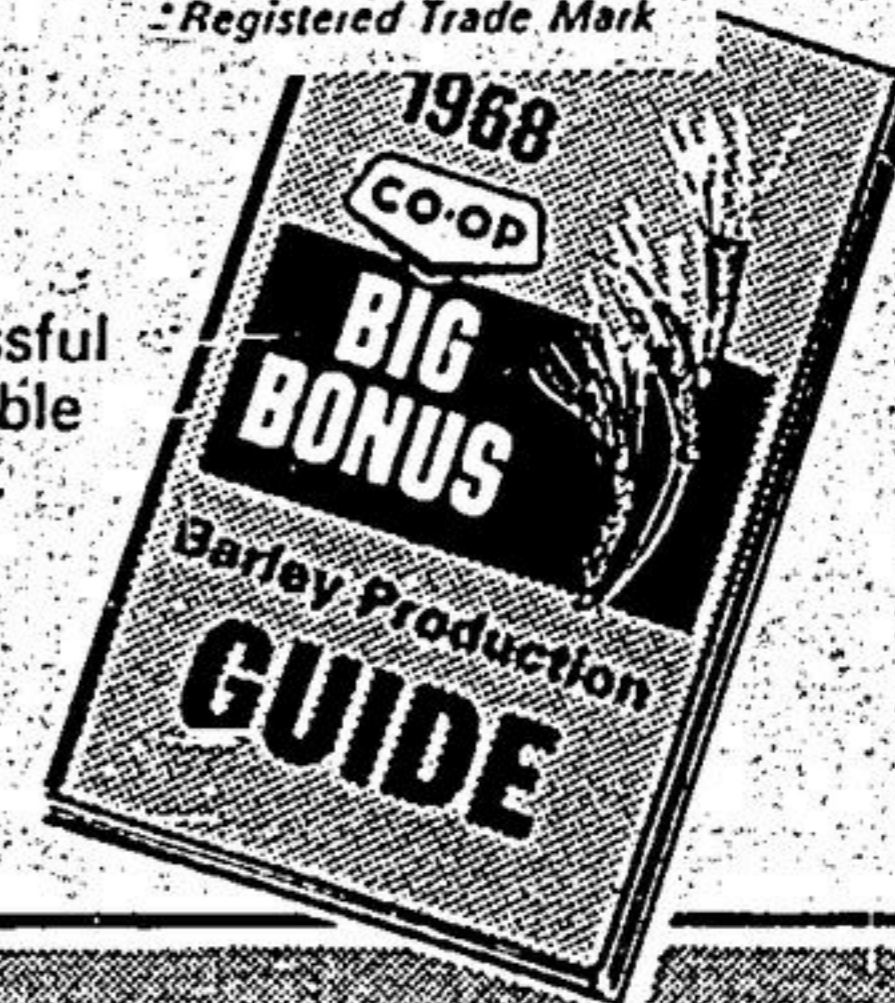
4. Weed control

Early planting of Barley requires complete weed control. For specific recommendations check with your Co-operative or refer to "Publication 75—Guide to Chemical Weed Control," published by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

5. Insect control

Insect control must be considered. Commercial Barley seed is already treated for control of covered smut and seedling blight, but White Grubs and Wireworms may be a problem, check with your Co-operative. *Registered Trade Mark

A detailed guide to successful Barley production is available now at your Co-operative. Get your free copy.



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