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# Our LAND



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To hold down grass and weed competition, use a mulch around fruit trees, suggests Leon Snyder, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. Grass cut from between rows can be raked up and used in a circle around each tree. Straw or rain-soaked hay can be used for additional mulch. Mulching will not only smother weed and grass competition but will help conserve moisture and improve the soil. Nitrate fertilizer should be used in the spring to hasten decay of mulch and improve tree growth.

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Honorable retirement from the District Board is the reward for Theodore F. Peet, former supervisor of the Wilkin County Soil Conservation District. For six and a half years Mr. Peet helped guide the destiny of the Wilkin district, a record which places him in a position as one of Minnesota's pioneer supervisors. He is also a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee.

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Once again it will pay to buy commercial fertilizer early for the coming year and to accept delivery and store it on your own place, advises E. R. Duncan, University of Minnesota extension soils specialist. There will not be enough of all needed kinds of fertilizer to go around. Supplies are good right now but are not expected to be so next spring.

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Clearing and renovating of one acre will provide enough palatable forage to replace the forage that might be produced by  $11\frac{1}{2}$  acres of wooded pasture, points out Parker Anderson, extension forester at the University of Minnesota.

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Renovation of old permanent dairy pastures at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland, in 1945 resulted in an average yearly increase of 35 per cent in feed nutrients during the next five years. Renovated pastures not only provided more grazing than unrenovated pastures, but they furnished more grazing earlier in the spring and later in the fall. Furthermore, from July 15 on, when permanent pastures are often short, the renovated pastures out-yielded the unrenovated ones by an average of 45 per cent each year for the five years.

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