

University Farm News
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Bankers Promote Trees -- Tree planting in Minnesota should be greatly speeded up this spring as a result of the efforts of the conservation-minded Minnesota bankers. County associations of bankers have already purchased tree planting machines for use in 25 counties, according to Marvin Smith and Parker Anderson, Extension foresters at the University Farm at St. Paul. The bankers are presenting the tree planters to the counties through local county agents to be used in large-scale tree planting projects. Mechanical tree planters will set out up to 10,000 seedlings a day, as compared to about 500 for one worker using hand methods.

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Mixtures Valuable -- Some timothy or brome in the legume has its advantages. Ralph Wayne, University of Minnesota extension dairyman, reminds farmers that these crops will help fill in spots in the field where the legumes may not have caught. It is easier, too, to make silage from a mixture than from straight legumes. And the mixture, when pastured, is usually less of a bloat hazard.

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Game Refuge Planned -- The State Department of Conservation is planning to acquire 800 acres of land on Prairie Island to be used for a game refuge and public hunting grounds. Richard Dorer, wildlife supervisor for the Department, gave this information at a meeting of sportsmen sponsored by the Izaak Walton League of Red Wing. The tract is mostly marsh land not suited for agriculture.

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What's A Soil Test? -- Paul Burson, head of the soil testing lab at University Farm, says a soil test may be compared with a physical examination. "A doctor can take your temperature, run various laboratory tests and give you a general check-up. But in addition he will ask you a number of questions. The same is true with soil testing. If you are not getting the kind of crop yields you think you should, just testing the soil doesn't give enough information. The test must be interpreted correctly."

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