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Trees in Ditches -- The greatest maintenance problem in open ditch drainage is the growth of trees and brush, according to Paul Buecksler, chairman of the Steele County Soil Conservation District. "It is not only a costly job but almost an impossible problem to deal with after the trees get a good start," Buecksler said. He has discussed this problem with Glen Degner, manager of the Owatonna airport. Degner thinks the solution lies in airplane spraying with Esteron 2-4-5 and Esteron 44 in equal parts. He demonstrated this technique on a mile of open ditch that was badly overgrown with trees and brush. The final results can be observed soon.

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Seedbed for Trees -- Growing trees successfully in shelterbelts and field windbreaks depends fully as much on a good seedbed as does a good stand of corn. In calling attention to this fact, Marvin Smith, extension forester at the University of Minnesota, says that on medium to heavy soils summer fallowing the year before tree planting, should be the rule. A substitute plan of growing grain or a row crop on the ground the season before planting is not altogether satisfactory. The rate of planting, as well as the quality of the planting job is lowered, and poor planting is reflected in lower survival of trees. These effects occur as the result of accumulations of stalks and other trash which interfere with proper action of the plow or tree planting equipment.

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Pasture for Pulletts -- Rearing pulletts on green pasture not used by chickens the previous year helps protect against disease, says Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist at the University of Minnesota.

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