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Our LAND



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Alfalfa Pays Off in Rotations -- A Yellow Medicine county farmer, James Eid, has found the value of having plenty of alfalfa in a rotation. One of the top winners in the 1953 X-tra yield corn contest, Eid's "extra yield"--47 bushels over what he got from the same plot of land in 1952--got part of its boost from a two-year stand of alfalfa he plowed under. Eid says most people only plow under alfalfa when it falls, but he finds he gets greater value by plowing it under earlier in the rotation. A high seeding rate and careful fertilizing helped his well-managed fields produce high yields.

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Wishful Tree Planting Time Is Now -- Someone once said that if weather would permit, more than a billion young trees would be planted in January and February. He was getting off a sly remark, of course, says Extension Forester Marvin Smith at the University of Minnesota. Still, we probably do more "hard thinking" about tree planting--plant more trees mentally--in January and February than we actually do later, when we can get into the ground with spade or tree planter. It's human nature. Seriously, though, every Minnesota farm family can have the protection and beauty of a farm shelterbelt--but it takes advance planning and ordering. County agents can help you order trees, but ordering time is getting short.

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U. Agronomist Gives Formula for Grass Improvement -- The greatest yields are obtained only when native grass species are replaced by improved productive species. This tip comes from Rodney A. Briggs, extension agronomist at the University of Minnesota. He says these things will insure the new stands' survival and productive capacity: Careful seedbed preparation, killing all native species of grass, fertilizing to help plants develop properly, precision planting for best distribution and depth of seed, and using a grass mixture in which the species go well together.

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It's Not Only Ours -- The land we live on may "belong" to us in title but it belongs also to generations yet unborn. Let's give it to them in better condition than we received it.

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