



August 16 1951

For use during the week
of September 16 1951

Appearing in newspapers of the Minnesota Editorial
Association through the cooperation of the U.S. Soil
Conservation service and conservation authorities at
University Farm.

Henry McKigney of Marshall has recently had a first-hand demonstration of how sod crops build up humus in the soil and control blowing. After watching fields in that area blow several weeks back, McKigney decided more seeding-down of cropland was very much in order.

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Rewards for outstanding records of achievement in 4-H soil conservation work include merit medals for county winners, wrist watches for state finalists more than 14 years of age and savings bonds for those under 14. Educational trips to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago are also provided for 16 sectional winners, eight of whom will be selected for national awards of college scholarships. Full information concerning the program may be obtained from the county extension office.

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Most disappointments with shelterbelt plantings are caused by lack of proper planning. One of the worst offenses is omitting ground preparation, says Marvin Smith, extension forester at University Farm. All too often this job is postponed until shortly before trees are planted. Poor survival of trees as the result of weed competition is the usual experience. Summer fallowing prior to shelterbelt planting is recommended. However, fall plowing is acceptable where sod or weed cover is light, says Smith.

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Fencing along a line that follows the contour of the land will require less land for the fence row, present a better appearance and serve as a permanent contour marker, points out C. H. Christopherson, associate professor of agricultural engineering at the University of Minnesota.

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