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Our LAND



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How Deep is My Lake? -- This spring SCS technicians and members of the Lake Benton Sportsmen's Club measured the depth of silt in Lake Benton, a prairie lake of 2,600 acres. Pioneer records say the lake was from 15 to 24 feet deep. Now, silt from five to 15 feet deep has filled it until it is only about seven to nine feet deep. The tragic part: This silt was once topsoil. It was washed and blown into the lake from surrounding cropland. Not only is this soil lost to future crop production, but it has lessened the lake's efficiency as a "fish home."

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Cultivate Now to Help Young Trees -- Hot months are critical for your young tree planting, says Parker Anderson, extension forester at the University of Minnesota. Young tree roots and weeds are competing in a battle for survival and cultivation helps in many ways. It not only eliminates weeds but leaves the ground in condition to hold moisture and absorb summer rains. Anderson advises not to cultivate too deep or too close to young trees--you may risk cutting off roots. Be careful not to hill up the soil too high around them, too. You can protect small evergreens on the south and southwest side of your place from drying out by shading them with shingles or small boards a foot or so from the tree.

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Southeastern Minnesota Project Begins -- Soil and erosion control structures will soon be started on the East Willow Creek watershed project in Fillmore County, according to Roy E. Bennett, SCS conservationist. A contract for six structures to control erosion and prevent floods was let recently. These are the first built under the Watershed Protection Program for Minnesota.

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Field Day Dates -- Circle these in red on your calendar if they're in your area. They are field days held by University of Minnesota agricultural experiment stations to demonstrate useful research. Monday, July 12, William Poulson farm, Redwood Falls; Tuesday, July 13, Southern Experiment Station, Waseca; Thursday, July 22, Northwest Experiment Station, Crookston; Friday, July 23, H. G. Magnuson farm, Roseau; Tuesday, July 27, North Central Experiment Station, Grand Rapids; Wednesday, July 28, Northeast Experiment Station, Duluth. -hrj-