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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA -- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY FARM ST. PAUL 8 MINNESOTA

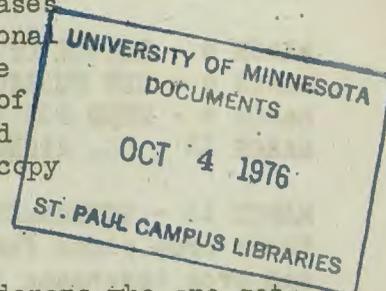
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Publications

EXTENSION DIGEST

March 15, 1945
for period
March 1-March 15

This digest of selected press and radio releases is intended primarily to keep editors and professional workers in general touch with the activities of the Agricultural Extension Service and the Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota. For detailed information on topics referred to, please ask for copy of original release.

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MARCH 1 - HOW TO COMBAT DISEASES OF SEEDLINGS - Victory gardeners who are getting the jump on the 1945 garden season by starting some of their plants indoors already face several plant disease problems. According to C. J. Eide, associate professor of plant pathology at University Farm, the first disease symptoms may show up soon after the seeds are planted in flats. "Damping off" is one of the first diseases to attack young seedlings. The affected seedlings have a soft, watery appearance at the ground line and soon topple over and die. Seed treatments which destroy disease organisms that are carried on the surface of the seed help to control this disease, but certain soil-borne organisms may also cause it. Excessive watering, lack of light, use of heavy soil, and crowding of plants are other factors that contribute to the occurrence and spread of damping off. The soil used in seed flats should preferably not be taken from the garden, since this may be the source of a number of diseases which may affect the young seedlings. Contaminated soil causes infection of plants even if seed treatment is followed. If old garden soil must be used, it should be sterilized by placing small amounts of it in a shallow pan and heating in an oven. A medium-sized potato buried in the soil will serve as a gauge of the time needed to complete sterilization. When the potato is cooked, the soil may be removed. Eide warned against misunderstandings that might arise in regard to vegetable varieties that are disease resistant. He pointed out that such resistance is for certain specific diseases and does not offer blanket protection against all diseases. Seed treatment with appropriate chemical substances used according to manufacturers' directions is highly desirable as a protection against many diseases.

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- MARCH 1 - MILKWEED COLLECTION TO BE CONTINUED THIS SUMMER
- MARCH 1 - CONSUMERS AND DEALERS URGED TO CONSERVE FOOD CONTAINERS
- MARCH 5 - SHORT COURSE FOR DRY MILK MANUFACTURERS AND DAIRY LEADERS
- MARCH 5 - LANDSCAPE PLANNING BULLETIN OFF THE PRESS
- MARCH 5 - 14 DISTRICT CHAMPIONS IN 4-H RADIO SPEAKING CONTEST
- MARCH 7 - START GARDEN PROGRAM NOW BY MAKING CAREFUL PLAN
- MARCH 7 - CATTLE GRUBS CAUSE HEAVY ANNUAL LOSS

MARCH 7 - INVESTIGATIONS ON WET CORN AS ENSILAGE MATERIAL - One of the most frequent questions coming to University Farm from southern Minnesota farmers these days is whether wet corn can be saved by putting it in the silo. Although no investigations have been made at University Farm involving the use of high-moisture ear corn as ensiling material, studies were made by the Iowa Experiment Station in 1923. The ensiling material used by the Iowa investigators was ear corn ranging from 25 to 32 per cent moisture in the grain and 30 to 50 per cent moisture in the cobs. The four grades of corn used included some that was mature and free from molds as well as some that was very immature and moldy. The ensiling was done in March. Enough

water was added to bring the moisture content up to about 60 per cent. Not all the water could be added at the time of ensiling. The 31 per cent moisture corn required 67 pounds of water per hundred pounds of ensiled material to bring the moisture content up to the desired level. The silos were opened in November. The best grades of corn produced silage that was well-preserved, palatable, clean, and bright. The poorest grade, which was very immature and moldy, produced silage that was soft, mushy and had a sharp, musty odor. On the average this silage was 53 per cent heavier than ordinary silage at a depth of ten feet.

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- MARCH 8 - SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES MARCH 16
- MARCH 8 - NEW PUBLICATION ON PRUNING APPLE TREES BY T. S. WEIR
- MARCH 8 - NEED FOR HOME GARDENS THIS YEAR, SAYS SNYDER
- MARCH 13 - DR. RICHARDS NEW ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENTOMOLOGY

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MARCH 13 - GOVERNMENT CROP INSURANCE ON WHEAT AND FLAX - Minnesota farmers making their crop plans for 1945 can for the first time do so with the backing of government crop insurance on two important crops, wheat and flax, says Charles W. Stickney, state AAA chairman. He urged those who would like the protection of insurance in growing these crops to get in touch with their county AAA office and study the terms of the insurance. Flax has been covered by insurance this year for the first time as a means of encouraging increased acreages. This crop now is subject to both insurance and incentive payment. Under the procedure set up by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, the farmer who applies for insurance pledges so many bushels of his crop as a premium, payable September 1. He designates how many acres of the particular crop he wants covered on the basis of a yield fixed as suitable for his farm. He may choose 50 per cent or 75 per cent coverage. In case the crop is all or partially lost, the government insurance agency steps in to reimburse him for his loss. If the loss is incurred early enough so the land can be released for another crop, the indemnity represents half the coverage. If no crop is harvested, the indemnity is 80 per cent of the coverage. If a partial crop is harvested, the indemnity is determined by the difference between the crop and the coverage. Wheat contracts cover a three-year period, while flax contracts are written for one year.

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- MARCH 14 - TRANSPLANTS CAN BE GROWN AT HOME
- MARCH 14 - PROTECT YOUNG LAMBS FROM INFESTATION, MORRIS WARNS
- MARCH 14 - BURSON URGES PEPPING UP PERMANENT PASTURES

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DATES TO REMEMBER

March 28-29 - Horticulture Short Course

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Copies available on request from county extension office, or from Bulletin Room, St. Paul 8.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS FOR MINNESOTA 1944-45 by C. O. Rost and Paul M. Burson. Extension Pamphlet 118 (Revised February 1945). 6 pages. Information on available fertilizers and recommended rates of application for different crops.

PRUNING THE APPLE TREE by T. S. Weir. Extension Folder 129 (March 1945) 12 pages. Illustrated. Designed as a guide for home orchardists. Right and wrong methods of pruning and training the apple tree described and illustrated.

FERTILIZERS FOR POTATOES IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY by C. O. Rost, H. W. Kramer and T. M. McCall. Station Bulletin 385, March 1945. 16 pages. A study of four years of trials in the Red River Valley with commercial fertilizers for potatoes.

