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Fallow In Weed Control

Recommendations for tillage
operations in a program of
fallow for effective
weed control



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION

FALLOW CHART

(Note plans for second season, below.)

		NORTHERN AREA	CENTRAL AREA	SOUTHERN AREA
Mustard	Start fallow	June 1	June 1	June 1
	Interval	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks
	End fallow	September 1	September 1	September 15
Frenchweed	Start fallow	May 1	May 1	May 1
	Interval	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks
	End fallow	September 1	September 1	September 15
Perennial sow thistle and Canada thistle	Start fallow	June 1	June 1	June 1
	Interval	1 week	1 week	1 week
	End fallow	Ground freezes	Ground freezes	Ground freezes
Field bindweed (Creeping Jenny)	Start fallow	June 1	June 1	May 15
	Interval	1 week	1 week	1 week
	End fallow	September 1	September 15	September 30
Leafy spurge	Start fallow	May 1	May 1	May 1
	Interval	1 week	1 week	1 week
	End fallow	September 15	September 15	September 30
Quack grass	Start fallow	June 15	June 10	June 1
	Interval	1 week	1 week	1 week
	End fallow	September 15	September 15	September 30

Start fallow—Date of first cultivation. If land was not fall-plowed, plow deep except for quack grass.

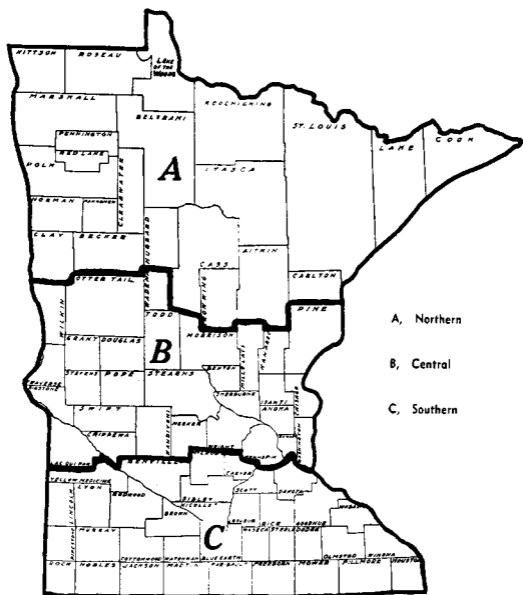
Interval—The maximum time between cultivations.

End fallow—The average date of last cultivation.

In the control of perennial weeds, it is necessary in most cases to fallow more than one year. If Canada thistle is eliminated at the end of the first year, seed alfalfa the next season, preferably in June following early season fallow.

With field bindweed, continue fallow during the second year until plants are eliminated.

In controlling quack grass, Canada thistle, and leafy spurge, a cultivated row crop may be grown the second year. If many plants persist in the spring of the second year, fallow until June 15 and plant a heavy seeding of soybeans, Sudan grass or millet as a smother crop. The Northwest Station at Crookston has found it desirable



MAP SHOWING AREAS

to combine sweet clover with fallow in controlling mustard, perennial sow thistle, and quack grass. Following the cutting of the first crop of sweet clover for hay, the land is fallowed for the remainder of the season.

Annual weeds, mustard, Frenchweed, etc., should be controlled with one season's fallow. Plant row crops the second year, and practice clean cultivation to prevent seed formation.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

Fallow must be thoro.—A fallow job is ineffective if not done properly. If the tillage is to prove effective in controlling perennial weeds, it must be repeated often enough to prevent appreciable growth. The intervals proposed in the chart should be considered as maximum. In many instances it will be advisable to cultivate more frequently if growth of the weeds is rapid. The work is largely useless and may stimulate growth of the weeds if the field is permitted to become green between cultivations.

Proper implements necessary.—The duckfoot cultivator is a fine implement for cultivation, provided wide, overlapping shovels are used. The shovels should be run deep. This requires considerable power. The disk harrow may be used where better implements are not available. It is not as effective as the duckfoot. For quack grass, the spring tooth is the most effective implement.

Other annual weeds such as wild oats, foxtail (pigeon grass), barnyard grass, Russian thistle, wild buckwheat, and ragweed should be treated as outlined for the mustards.

Other perennial weeds such as perennial pepper grass, horse nettle, Russian knapweed, and Austrian field cress should be treated as outlined for field bindweed.

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