AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



# Radio News Briefs

For A Growing Minnesota

May 16, 1969

## Consider Planting Short Season Corn Hybrids

You may want to consider planting shorter season corn hybrids due to late planting dates. This advice comes from Dale Hicks, agronomist at the University of Minnesota. Hicks says grain yields of shorter season corn hybrids will be about equal to full season varieties when both are planted late. Full season hybrids yield more only when they're planted earlier in the growing season. With late planting, the chance of getting mature, low moisture corn is better with short season hybrids.

You'll also get higher quality corn silage from the late planting by using short season varieties, since there'll be a higher percentage of grain in the silage. Hicks says you can plant silage corn as late as July 1 and get good results.

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## Control Canada Thistle Patches

Eliminating small, dense Canada thistle patches is the most important part of a thistle control program, Gerald Miller, agronomist at the University of Minnesota, says heavy thistle stands are major sources of seed and rootstocks for the development of new infestations. The best control methods for dense thistle patches require the loss of crop production for one or more years. But Miller says this loss isn't as serious as it may seem, since crop production is poor in dense thistle stands. Several chemical treatments are available for treating Canada thistle patches. For more information, ask your county agent for a copy of Extension Bulletin 329 entitled, "Controlling Canada Thistle."

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Spring Check-Up Tips for Bulk Milk Tanks

Spring is check-up time for bulk milk tanks. Vern Packard, dairy industries specialist at the University of Minnesota, offers these suggestions.

* Clean dust from the compressor radiator and inspect the compressor. It's a good idea to call your bulk tank dealer or refrigeration expert for annual service and adjustment.

* Check the thermostat for accuracy and set it at 36 degrees.

* Check the agitator motor for proper action. Also, make sure the compressor vent opening in the wall of your milk house is properly screened for fly control.

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Avoid Growing Soybeans in Thistle-Infested Fields

Don't grow soybeans in fields with Canada thistle infestations, since chemicals can't be used to suppress thistles in soybean fields. Gerald Miller, agronomist at the University of Minnesota, says if you must grow soybeans, spray with 1 pound per acre of 2,4-D when thistles are a few inches tall. But spray at least 2 weeks before planting soybeans. Delay seedbed preparation and planting soybeans at least 2 weeks after spraying to allow time for 2,4-D to act on the thistles and to avoid 2,4-D residue effects on the soybeans.

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Apply Fungicides to Strawberries

Apply the fungicide captan to strawberry plants weekly, until harvest time. Herbert Johnson, plant pathologist at the University of Minnesota, says you can apply dusts of 5 to 10 percent concentration instead of sprays. For best results, apply dusts when plants are wet or damp. Captan will protect against fruit spots, leaf blight and blossom blight. Don't apply insecticides to plants during the blossom period.

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Bright Red Color a Key to Quality

Fresh strawberries are coming to Midwest markets in greater quantities these days. When you buy fresh strawberries, look for those with a full red color and a bright luster, with the cap stem still attached. Grace Brill, extension nutritionist at the University of Minnesota, says the berries should be dry and clean. Usually medium to small berries have better eating quality than the large ones.

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Freeze Part of Catch

So you can't eat all of that beautiful catch the fishermen in your family brought home? Then freeze some to enjoy later.

Mrs. Shirley Munson, University of Minnesota home economist and freezing foods specialist, says the first step is to prepare the fish as you would for table use. Scale and eviscerate the fish, remove head and fins, wash it thoroughly and drain it. Prepare and freeze the fish as soon as possible after it's caught. If there's a delay, eviscerate and pack the fish in crushed ice because fish deteriorates rapidly.

Freeze small fish whole, but fillet or steak large fish before freezing. Package in aluminum foil or a saran-type film.

One good way to freeze panfish is in a block of ice. Place the dressed fish in a clean 2-pound coffee can or a breadpan and cover with water. When you're ready to use the fish, just thaw the ice under a slow stream from the cold water faucet.

Store fish in the coldest part of the freezer -- near the bottom of chest types or directly on refrigerated shelves of upright models.

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To Keep Pictures Straight

Do you have trouble with crooked pictures on your walls? Mrs. Myra Zabel (Zay-bel), extension specialist in home furnishings at the University of Minnesota, says a little piece of foam rubber can help solve your problem. To keep your picture straight, glue small pieces of foam rubber to the lower corners of the back of frame where it touches the wall. The foam rubber will also help to prevent dust from collecting behind the picture.

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