

## March Starts Check-Up Time For Gardeners

Garden catalogues are full of information pertaining to new types of plant material, flowers and new garden equipment. Plan to try some of the new flowering annuals both for cut flower and border planting.

Look over shrubs and trees if any of them have been damaged by heavy snows or ice cut back the damaged portions to clean live wood. Paint any wounds, which are over one inch in diameter, with a protective tree paint.

Clean up all rubbish around the yard, and burn dry material which cannot be used in the compost heap.

Look over garden tools. Be sure that all of them are in readiness for spring use in the garden.

Remove heavy mulches from crocus and snow drop bulbs. Do not remove mulch from tulips, daffodils and other bulbs until late March or early April.

Repair and paint garden furniture and trellises and arbors.

Look over the rock garden and firm all plants which may have heaved. Topdress area with organic peat mixed with garden soil.

Loosen mulches around perennials.



THIS CHART HELD by County Agent Max M. Smith shows the pH requirements of various crops. For alfalfa and other legume crops, the pH should be near 7.0 (neutral), while some vegetables like a soil that is more acid. Most soils that were formed under forest conditions tend to be acid and require frequent lime treatment. (LF Photo)

## Soybean Cyst Nematode Found In Arkansas

The Arkansas State Plant Board and the U. S. Department of Agriculture announce that the soybean cyst nematode has been found in one county in northeast Arkansas.

Arkansas thus becomes the fourth state in which this parasite of soybeans and other plants has been discovered since its first appearance in the United States 2½ years ago. Two counties in North Carolina and one each in Tennessee and Missouri are also known to be infested.

Identification of the soybean cyst nematode in Arkansas was made February 19 in soil samples collected in Mississippi County in the northeast corner of the State. This finding of the pest was a result of the comprehensive nematode survey now getting under way throughout the Mississippi River Valley. The survey was begun after discovery of the nematode late last year in Lake County, Tenn., and in Pemiscot County, Mo., just across the Mississippi River.

As weather conditions permit, the cooperative State-Federal search for the nematode will be extended in principal soybean-producing States to determine the pest's distribution.

The soybean cyst nematode parasitizes soybeans and certain other crops, including annual lespedeza, common vetch, and snap beans. It made its first U. S. appearance in North Carolina in 1954. Before that time it was known only in Japan, Manchuria, and Korea. North Carolina has had a State quarantine in effect against the pest since March 1956. A public hearing on a proposed Federal quarantine to prevent spread of the nematode was held in Washington, D. C., January 31. Representatives from nine States, including Arkansas and other States where the nematode has been found, attended this hearing.

## Unit Packages Used for Fifth Of Produce Sold

Approximately a fifth of all fruits and vegetables delivered to retail stores are now packaged in consumer units, and the proportion continues to increase, according to a study conducted jointly in Northeastern States by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service and Cornell University.

In the Northeastern region, of the approximately 100 fresh fruits and vegetables marketed, only about 30 were prepackaged by the plants surveyed. Some plants packaged as many as 15 items, and some only one. Packaging of some commodities is still in the experimental stage. Vegetables are more generally packaged than fruits. Items more likely to be packaged are those to which prepackaging gives protection from bruising, preservation of quality, sanitation, and consumer appeal and convenience.

Leafy vegetables, such as spinach, usually require more attention in packaging than root-type vegetables or fruits. Some of the root-type vegetables, such as radishes, turnips, onions and beets, were packaged almost entirely automatically. The bag was fabricated by a machine and the commodity was automatically weighed, bagged and sealed. Other products were packaged almost entirely by hand.

## World Corn Production Expected to Top 1956

Latest figures available to the Foreign Agricultural Service show that world corn production in 1956-57 may total 6,585 million bushels. If the current estimate materializes, the 1956-57 crop will exceed the previous year's crop by 310 million bushels and the 1945-58 average by 1,295 million.

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## Leader Herd Guernsey Completes HIR Record

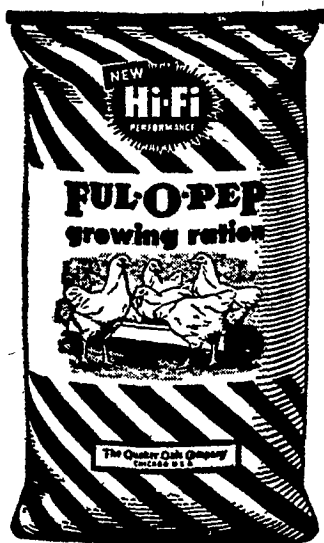
PETERBOROUGH, N. H. — A registered Guernsey cow, Laumont Linda Darnell, owned by Guy A. Leader & Sons, Inc., York, Pa., has completed an official production record in the Herd Improvement Registry division of the American Guernsey Cattle Club.

This record was for 11,509 pounds of milk and 585 pounds of fat.

"Darnell", was a senior two year-old, met calving requirements, and was milked two times daily for 360 days while on test.

This official production record was supervised by Pennsylvania State University.

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