



A TRIAL INSTALLATION OF the new plastic greenhouse was made by Wisslers before starting a major construction project. This plastic has been in place about four months and shows no signs of rips, tears or disintegration. Sections of the 200 foot portable houses being built by the florists are about four feet long. (LF Photo)

Plastic Greenhouse Getting Trial In Mum Production in Field

The new plastic greenhouse is getting a hard field trial by the Wissler Flower Co. of Lancaster this year. The Wisslers plan to build 10 houses 200 feet long to be placed over field grown mums this summer. The houses, built in sections, will be portable, thus allowing them to be moved from one bed to another. The idea of a plastic green-

house is comparatively new. It was first introduced into this county by the firm that manufactures the plastic at a meeting of florists this spring. The plastic, one of the film type sheets, comes in rolls of various widths. According to the manufacturer, the plastic has a field life of at least 10 years. Field trials have shown that sunlight, rain and snow will not cause the transpar-

Fruit Prospect Near Normal; Peaches Vary

HARRISBURG—The State Department of Agriculture said today 1957 Pennsylvania fruit prospects are near normal, but peach crops in the southeastern counties are variable because of low temperatures in early May. First estimated production for this year's peach crop is 2,450,000 bushels in comparison with a revised total of 2,340,000 bushels. The ten-year average is 2,439,000 bushels. A full peach crop is expected in the Erie fruit belt, but the important Adams - Franklin - York County area had considerable frost damage, according to Crop Reporting Service surveys. In southeastern Pennsylvania, bloom was generally heavy and the crops expected to be good.

The 1957 commercial apple production estimate will be made about July 11. Although there was some freeze damage, prospects for a good crop are reported. Damage from the freezing temperatures in early May was heaviest in Franklin County.

The 1957 pear crop is forecast at 75,000 bushels. Last year's revised estimate was 70,000 bushels. The ten-year average is 190,000 bushels.

The June 1 estimate shows the sweet cherry at 700 tons compared with the 1956 revised estimate of 300 tons. However, the ten-year average is 1,150 tons.

Sour cherry blooming was good but poor pollination and some freezing held back the crop. Production estimates for the five Great Lake States will be published later this month.

ent plastic, only 5 mils thick, to deteriorate.

Construction of a plastic greenhouse is relatively cheap, as compared to a glass building. However, the expected life of the building is only a fifth or sixth of the expected life of a glass structure, and in most cases, the structure is not as sturdy as glass.

In the installation being made by the Wisslers, only a covering structure is being built. The idea is to keep moisture off the blooms, thus reducing fungus rot and mildew. The sides will be open.

Black cloth for day length control will be placed inside the building.

After the building is completed, hand watering will be required, thus increasing the labor cost. However, the added number of blooms saved and the higher quality is expected to more than offset this added cost.

Another advantage expected for the new building is that in the fall during late cutting, workmen will be much more comfortable in the shelter. With no moisture on the plants, and with protection from rain, the cutting process will go much faster than now possible in an open field.

The Wisslers are making all the structure themselves. A bench saw and drill press are all the tools required. The only outside work they had done was the forming of metal tie strips.

The side and roof pieces are made of reclaimed lumber from old greenhouses, cut to fit and bolted together with the metal tie strips. The ridge poles are made from ripped scrap lumber.

The plastic is stapled to the rafters, ridge pole and to the studs. It is then secured in position by strips nailed with brass nails. The brass nail is being used to prevent rust.

The house sets on a two by four laid flat and mounted on driven locust posts. Eye bolts and a tie rod hold the house to the two by four. Removing the tie rod allows the house section to be picked up and carried away. The house width and two by four installation is being made so that two houses will be set on one foundation.

The foundation is about four to six inches about ground level. Wissler said that if the plan proves satisfactory, added installations will be made throughout their operations.

Manheim Mill Now Operating At 80 Per Cent

A disastrous fire at Manheim some time ago which partially destroyed the Farm Bureau feed mill caused no serious inconvenience to either the farmers, who obtain their feed supplies there, or the half-a-hundred employees who work there according to Farm Bureau spokesmen.

First estimates were that it would take six to nine months to put the mill back into operation mill superintendent I. A. McFarland said. But a Lancaster County firm, the Daffin Company, moved a large mobile unit into the plant after the debris was cleared.

Within five days after it started installation of this unit, which manufactures all kinds of feeds except pellets, the mill began operation and soon was producing at a rate of 40,000 tons per year, as compared to its normal rate of 50,000 tons per year. Pellets are being obtained from another mill producing the same formulations and therefore, farmers are receiving their usual high quality supplies.

Employees immediately set to the task of cleaning the debris and then moved into milling operations as machinery was installed. Except for very brief periods after the fire, they lost no time from work.

Farm Bureau's executive vice president, George G. Connor, expressed his gratitude to the Daffin Company and other organizations for their excellent co-operation in aiding the cooperative.

"Farmers always have supplied this nation with plenty of food

and fibre, even when it has not been economically reasonable for them to do so," Connor said. "The quick action of other businesses and the public in helping these farmers overcome serious difficulties is appreciated as much as hungry people appreciate getting food."

"We are also happy that this quick action helped us keep our employees on the job, rather than have them face an extended period of unemployment."

"Cooperation of this kind, we believe, exemplifies the true American spirit. It is good for not only the farmers, but all the people."

"We also have nothing but the highest of praise for the fire companies from Lancaster, Manheim and East Petersburg, for their skill in confining and extinguishing the blaze. Their efforts resulted in a reduction of damage and made it possible for us to get our men back to work as quickly as we did."

THE NEW



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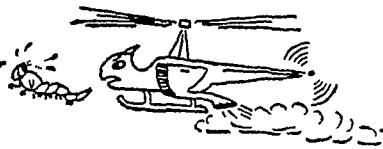
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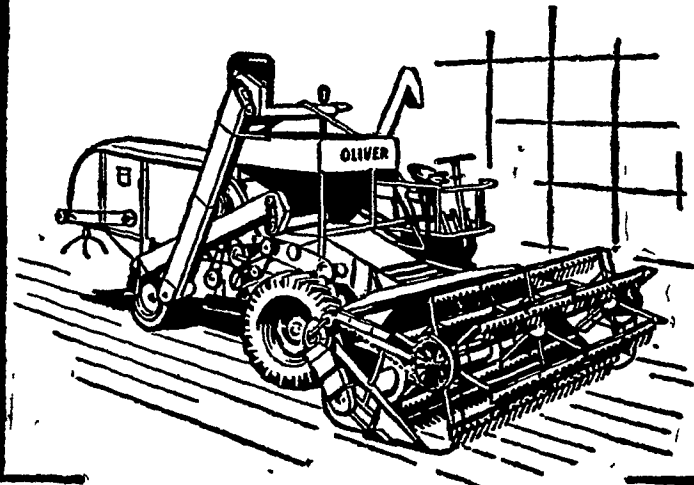
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