

Pre-Treatment of Legume Seed Offers Labor Savings

A new process for inoculation of legume seed to eliminate this operation by individual farmers has been announced by Northrup, King & Co., Minneapolis, in conjunction with Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio.

The development offers farmers the option of buying preinoculated legume seed with living Rhizobia bacteria, which are forced into the seed where research shows they will remain protected for many months.

Preinoculated alfalfa seed will be available for 1959 spring planting under trade mark identification.

Developers of the process point out that "... increased yields of high quality hay and elimination of time consuming hand inoculation are major benefits farmers will derive from it."

The process involves four basic steps. Seed is first processed to make the seed more permeable. A liquid suspension of selected bacteria strains is then applied to each seed. Then a vacuum is created which forces these bacteria into the seed. Finally the seed is dried and bagged ready for distribution and farm use.

By eliminating the need for inoculating seed just before planting, this will save valuable "rush-season" time. It also means farmers may obtain more evenly and effectively nodulated alfalfa stands because the seed is preinoculated under controlled conditions, the developers claim.

Inoculation with Rhizobia provides the legume with nitrogen-fixing bacteria to convert atmospheric nitrogen into forms usable by the plant. They function symbiotically with the plant, stimulating plant growth and helping

build and maintain soil productivity.

The exact amount of nitrogen fixed by Rhizobia varies, but has been estimated at 120 lbs. or more.

The bacteria die within a matter of hours after application by the usual methods. Also, as wet, inoculated seed dries in the planter it tends to flow unevenly. The new process is based on the principle of placing Rhizobia under the hard seed coat where they are protected from harm surviving heat and moisture changes for months with relative immunity.

Trial planting of 140,000 lbs of treated seed in the mid-west has proven its ability to compete with the old methods.

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Surplus Food OK For Disaster Area

Stocks of USDA "surplus" foods have been released in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut flood-disaster areas.

USDA officials said supplies of rice, cornmeal, butter, cheese and nonfat milk have donated to public welfare groups through the Red Cross.

Officials in other states by floods and blizzards assured of the immediate availability of USDA stocks if needed.

Foods from the department's stocks already in local areas in the process of distribution for use in school lunches, table institutions and needy families.

All available USDA stocks are, as a standard procedure under the Direct Distribution Program made immediately available to victims of rural disaster.

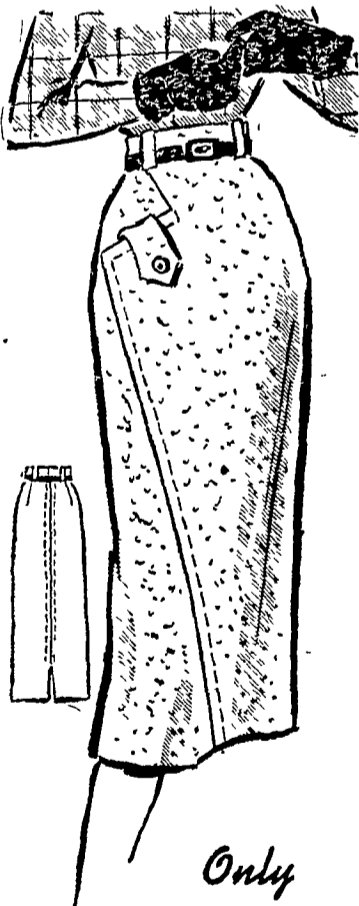
Theodore Roosevelt, the first American to have a ticker tape dumped on him as he rode in a parade.

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Churches To Aid Soil Stewardship

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches has again offered cooperation in the observance of Soil Stewardship Week, May 3-10. Jewish and Catholic leaders are being asked by conservation officials to participate in the 1959 program.

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