

Rain Helps Crops Need More Sun

Harrisburg — Weekend rains were "just what the doctor ordered" for Penna. farms, the State Crop Reporting Service said today in its weekly crop and weather roundup.

Soil moisture had become very short throughout the State before the rains came, the State Dept. of Agriculture noted. Plowing had stopped in a few localities.

Vegetable seedlings and transplants were growing slowly due to dry soil conditions. Cutting of asparagus and spinach, particularly in Bucks and Lancaster Counties, is now in full swing.

Very little corn has been planted in northern counties. Elsewhere corn planting is making rapid progress. Planting is slightly behind last year because the ground has been in condition for working only a short while.

The first crop of hay will be small in some central and southern counties. Pastures are short, but are expected to recover quickly as a re-

sult of the rain.

Main farm activities during the past week were plowing and preparing corn seed beds; planting oats, potatoes, corn and vegetables; liming corn ground; and spraying for spittle bug in alfalfa fields. Spittle bug infestation appears lighter than normal.

Locally, rain and wet ground curtailed planting of corn and field tomatoes, but some grass silage was being made during the latter part of the week.

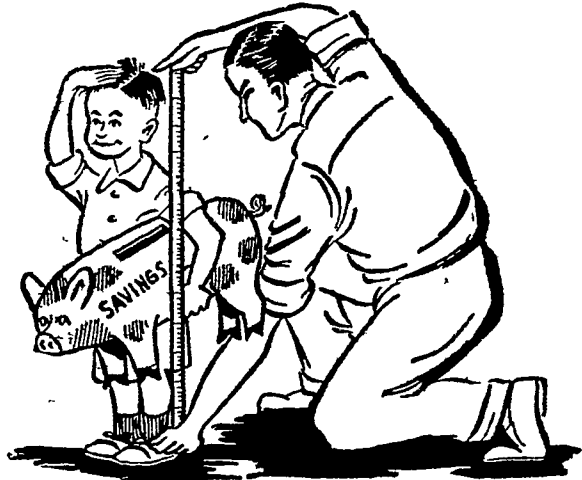
Most vegetable crops are showing improvement, but some crops will suffer soon from lack of sun and warm temperatures. Growth of some vegetables, notably asparagus, has slowed somewhat as a result of the cooler temperatures.

Tobacco plants continue to grow, but some are showing poorer color than normal because of the cool weather.

Barley is in head in most parts of the county, and wheat prospects look bright with the grain making good growth and stands generally good to excellent.

Generally farm work is running slightly behind schedule because of the weather.

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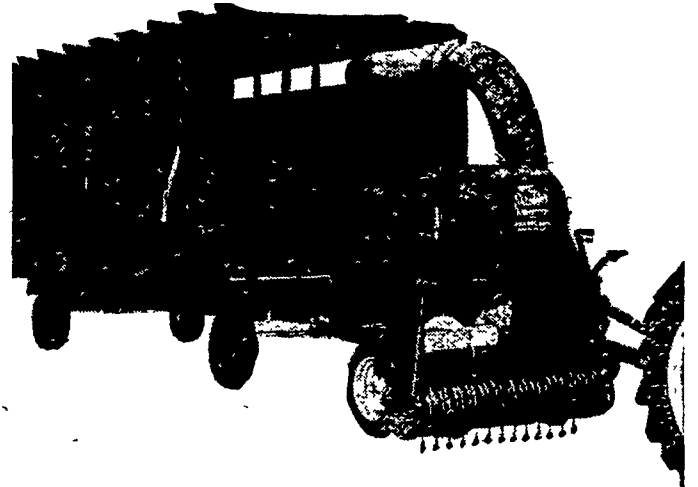
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