

## Prune Shrubs After Blooms

The golden yellow blossoms of forsythia have passed for another year although many other spring flowering shrubs are still in full bloom.

In order to insure an abundant supply of welcome color next spring forsythia and other early flowering shrubs such as spirea, mock orange and deutzia should be pruned immediately after they bloom, says Robert F. Stevens, extension horticulturist with the University of Delaware.

Removing the old wood, three years and older, down to base of shrub, will stimulate the growth of larger, more attractive flowers next year, Stevens says.

Shrubs that bloom in late June, July or August, such as abelia, snowberry and rose of Sharon should not be pruned until late winter or early spring—February or March of next year. The only exception is to remove any dead, diseased or broken branches. These should be removed immediately, as they are found.

Pruning should preserve the natural shape of the shrub. This is accomplished by cutting back some of the branches, removing dead, diseased, weak and broken branches, thinning



At the turn of the century many a farmer still used the same method of plowing as had his father and grandfather—a strong pair of oxen and a strong pair of arms.



Before electricity came to the farm, a farmer's wife needed a strong arm, too—for lifting that heavy sadiron between wood range and ironing board several hundred times a week.

## Engine Check Can Show Up Coming Trouble

Did you know you can learn a lot about an ailing tractor engine through a fairly simple examination, just as a doctor might start his diagnosis of what's wrong with you by tak-

ing your temperature or examining your tongue?

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It's true, according to agriculture engineers who advise that many forms of the elementary engine conditions that frequently cause trouble in a tractor engine can be spotted through a quick check of the spark plugs.

The engineers point out too, that an examination of just one plug will generally tell the whole story—since most of the adverse conditions affecting engine performance usually show up on all the plugs.

The time required for the whole operation is no more than a few minutes. Here's

what to look for:

Black, sooty deposits on the firing end may mean you're using too rich a fuel mixture, or you have possible ignition trouble. In either case, you're wasting gas, and the situation should be corrected.

Wet, oily deposits are a sign of excessive oil consumption. If you're sure rings, bearings and valve guides are in good shape, better check to see whether the plugs you're using are of the correct heat range . . . Could be they're too cold for the engine.

Burned, chalky white in-

electrodes, are generally an indication of overheating. Check here for an excessively lean mixture or overadvanced timing as this condition can result in burned valves and spark plugs.

If you haven't got the time to do it yourself, your local farm dealer will be glad to make this check for you. The few minutes it takes are well invested, and may save you a lot of time and money.

The most profitable type of farming nowadays seems to be cultivating congressional committees.

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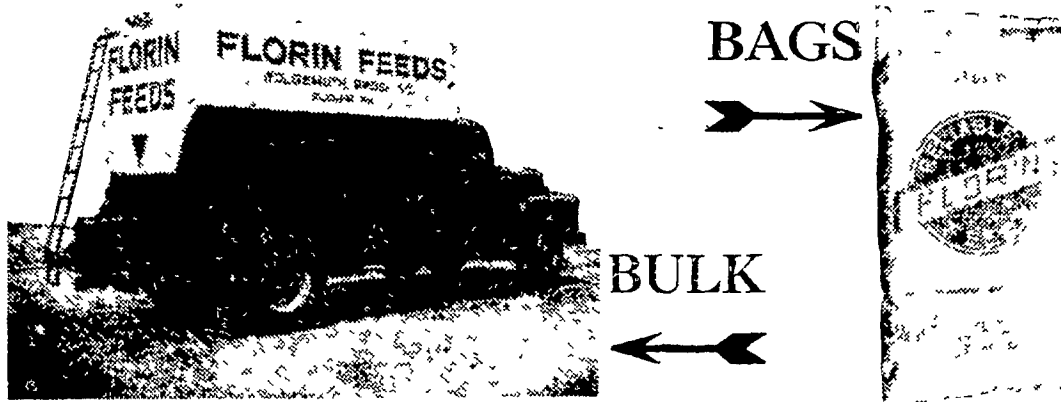
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