

Rains Save Pastures And Hay; Tobacco Plants Growing Slowly

Fairly general rains over the county about the middle of the week gave a much needed boost in pasture and hay crops. Moisture conditions of the soil at present are ample in most areas even though the county is deficient by almost one third of its normal rain fall since the beginning of the growing season.

Tobacco transplanting was virtually completed with only a few plants still to be set in the field. Replanting became quite general after the rain as disease in the fields cut the stand by as much as 50 percent in some areas. Growth of the transplants during the hot dry weather was slow, but the rains have caused a rapid spurt in size of the plants.

Pasture and hay crops made little growth and some permanent pastures began to turn brown. Most second cutting alfalfa crops will be helped by the rain.

Most of the state's fruit crop is free of insect and weather damage the state Crop Reporting Service said Tuesday in its weekly crop and weather roundup.

Prospects are for an excellent peach crop. Orchard-

ists report a heavy set and thinning operations are in full swing. Cherries are coloring well in all major producing areas. Red sours and some of the early sweet variety will be ready for picking the last week in June. Rains added apple sizing and some drooping has occurred in central counties. Grapes are in full bloom in the Erie region.

Vegetable producers report good growth of beets, corn, cucumbers and tomatoes with the assist of last week's rains. Snap beans are progressing well and harvesting will start this week in southern counties. Sweet corn is pushing in most areas. Harvesting peas continues, and asparagus, while still plentiful, has passed the peak period.

The small grain crops look good, but straw is short and lodging is evident in some fields. Barley is heading and beginning to yellow; in Lancaster County, barley is beginning to ripen. Wheat is generally headed but oats are still mainly in the preboot stage. Corn is in need of more moisture and warmer weather.

Southeastern counties report blossoming of late summer Cobbler potatoes. Planting

Tractor Tune-up Helps Prevent Major Trouble

Big trouble with your tractor's engine doesn't happen often, but when it does it can waste a lot of your time say agricultural engineers. And, if your's is one tractor operation, you can expect just about everything to stop dead... until the tractor is in working order again.

Good reason, then, why you should keep an eye on the condition of your tractor. However, we all know you can't stop whatever work you're doing to take the tractor to the dealer for continuous check-ups, so here are some helpful tune-up hints which you can check and do yourself. They may save you from a major breakdown, which often results from negligence.

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Check the generator conditions frequently, making sure they are tight. Also make sure the fan belt is properly adjusted, and is not worn or frayed. Add a couple of

of fall tubers is virtually completed except in the northern part of the state.

Spittle bug and weevil infestations are bad in some alfalfa fields and spraying operations were moved into full gear. Pasture conditions continue below average.

drops of oil in the generator oil cups every few weeks, but don't over oil!

Wiring—including battery cables—should be repaired or replaced where necessary. Corrosion on battery posts can cause a diaphragm on the battery and disintegrate the surrounding unprotected metal. Washing the top of the battery and connections with a baking soda and water solution will remove this corrosion, but take care that none of the solution runs into the vent holes.

Remove the battery terminals and scrape them inside and out with a pen knife or sand paper. The battery posts should be cleaned in the same way. After reinstalling the terminals, coat them (and other exposed metal surfaces) with light grease or gasket shellac.

Remember that the colder a battery is, the weaker it is. So, if a battery hydrometer is available, check level and specific gravity every week or so. And keep an eye on the ammeter an over charging generator can be just as troublesome as one that doesn't charge enough.

IGNITION SYSTEM

Distributor breaker points should be inspected and adjusted approximately every 100 hours and replaced about every 250 hours. Correct gap (usually .020 in.) will be list-

ed in your owners manual. Examine the inside of the distributor cap for such trouble-makers as cracks, dirt and moisture. Wipe the inside out with a clean, lint-free cloth. Clean the rotor tip with a knife (being careful not to remove any metal) and remove corrosion from tower contacts using fine sandpaper or a brush made for this purpose. (Be sure you blow out all the dust after this operation.)

When installing new distributor points, be sure to replace the condenser. Apply a small amount of a high melting point lubricant to the cam, rubbing block and distributor point pivot.

Spark plugs should be cleaned and regapped every 75 to 100 hours—replaced every 250 hours.

When installing new plugs, always check the gaps first. See owner's manual for correct spacing for your particular model tractor.

FUEL SYSTEM

The air cleaner oil reservoir on the air intake of the carburetor should be cleaned regularly in extremely dusty conditions it should be done daily. The entire air cleaner should be serviced seasonally.

The fuel filter should be examined daily cleaned weekly, or about every 60 hours. Watch for signs of water and be very careful of the gasket surfaces, when replacing the glass bowl.

These pointers, if followed closely, should add many trouble-free hours to your operation. For additional information, read your tractor owner's manual thoroughly.

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