

## State Agency Continues War On Oak Wilt

HARRISBURG — Oak wilt, baffling fungus disease, was found and treated in 386 areas in 15 Pennsylvania counties during the past summer, Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, State Department of Agriculture, said today.

Of the 386 known cases, 60 were single infections, involving only one tree, 274 group infections of more than one tree each, and 52 breakthrough attacks that developed over the boundary of previously treated areas.

Trees that had died from the wilt totaled 936 and another 867 were dying when the disease was located. Trees cut as a control measure totaled 5,054.

Known infection this year was less than in 1961 when the state's control teams fought the disease in 433 areas in 18 counties.

A disease known only in the United States, oak wilt was first found in Wisconsin where its fungus origin was determined in 1944. Meanwhile, it has been found in 17 other states, most of them in the mid-western and south vana it was first found in central sections. In Pennsylvania 1950 near McVeytown, Mifflin County. None has yet been located in Lancaster County.

Surveys, mostly with the use of low-flying planes, and control programs have been conducted by the Bureau of Plant Industry each year for the last 12 years. Control measures, regarded by Dr. Guyton as 85 per cent effective, have consisted of felling diseased trees and treating the stumps with ammate a chemical non-poisonous to wildlife and livestock. Stump treatment kills the roots and checks transference of the disease through root grafts. Outbreaks in isolated places indicate, Dr. Guyton pointed out that the disease is spread also in other ways, perhaps by spores that are carried by insects or wildlife.

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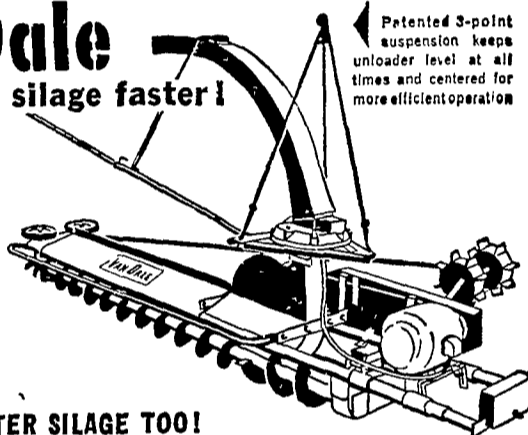
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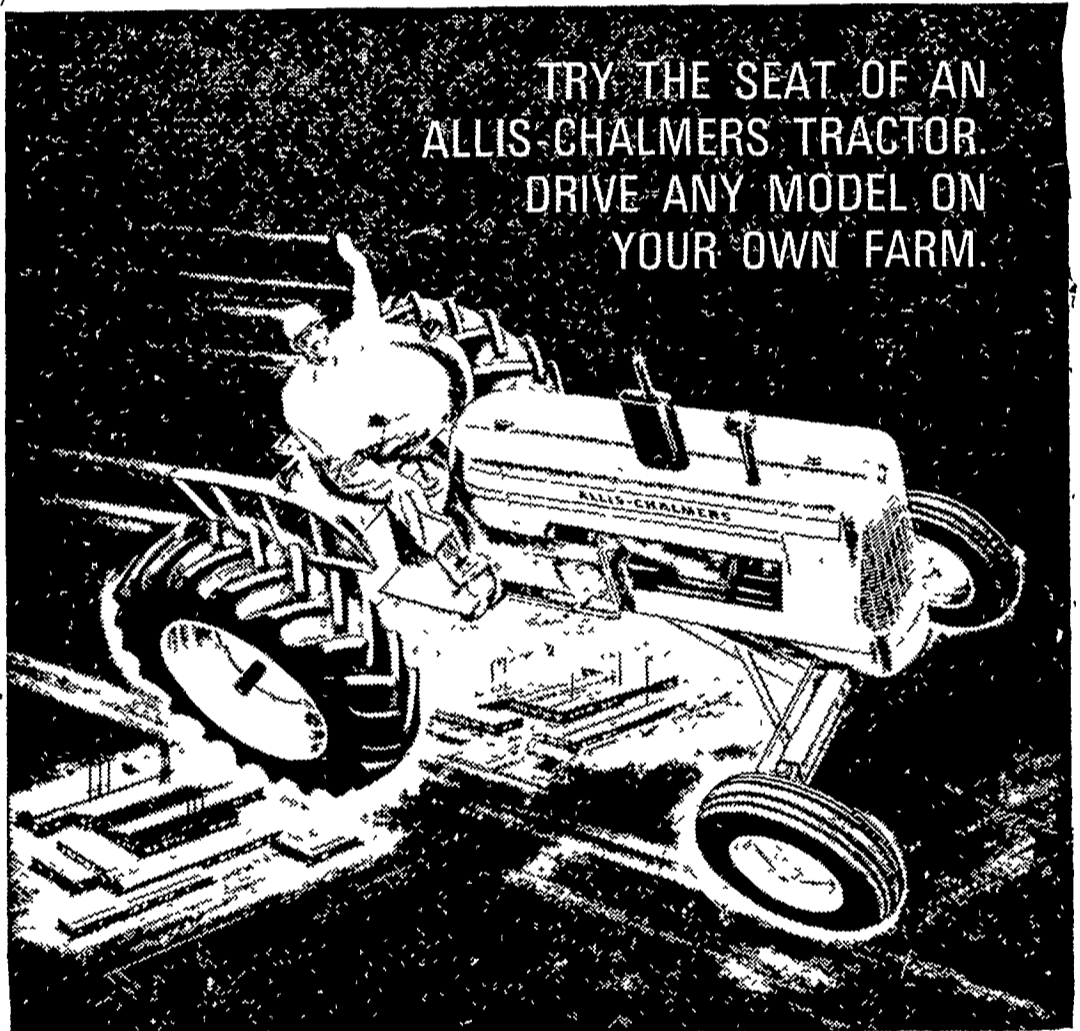
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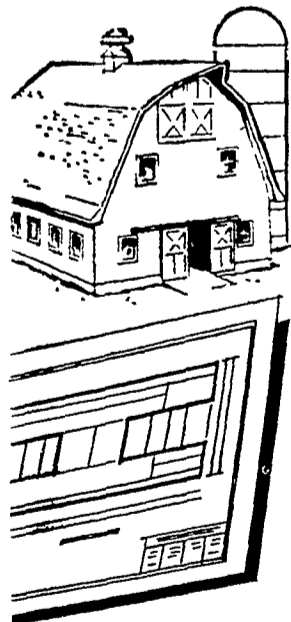
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