



PLANTS UNDER MUSLIN GROW MUCH SLOWER than under plastic. Compare the size of these plants with the size of the plants in the next bed, (picture on page 8). Beds were seeded on the same day with the same kind of seed. Beds covered with muslin have been watered more frequently and with more water than those under plastic. L. F. Photo.

(Continued From Page 8) small plants and cause irritation to eyes. With the lateral framework connected to a ridge pole of the same size lattice, the entire structure becomes very

wind resistant when covered with plastic.

Engle used 4 mil plastic this year. He believes the plastic can be stored and used again next year. He plans to close the ventilation slits with masking tape next spring when the beds are seeded. The tape can be stripped off when the beds need ventilation.

Ventilation is one of the major problems with the system.

Unless there are slits in the plastic along the sides of the bed, and the ends can be opened during bright days, some plant scalding will occur near the center of the bed.

Temperatures rise quite quickly during bright days. Temperatures of 110 degrees for a short time will not harm the plants, but 100 degrees is better, Engle said.

He plans to remove the cover entirely when the plants are about two-thirds of field size, probably about May 20. This will give the plants time to harden before going to the field.

Engle sees the system as especially good for the Penbel 69 variety of tobacco which needs a longer growing season than some other varieties. The plants can get in the field earlier and mature before danger of frost.

But Engle sees two other possible advantages to the plastic covered beds. In areas where snails are a problem, the plastic appears to be a barrier to the pests.

The plastic may also be some help in preventing blue mold which is an air-borne disease. The covering of the beds helps prevent infection by the drifting spores of the disease.

The program is still somewhat experimental, Engle said, but it may well be a real step forward for those growers who would like to get the plants into the field early.

Glass plays an important role in controlling erosion on 906 million acres of cropland, pasture and rangeland in the United States.

● President Sees

(Continued from Page 1) money shipping beef to the United Kingdom as to the U. S. "This has come about in the past three or four weeks."

"The price is right and Europe is very short of beef. We are going to export some beef to Europe," he said, "if we can get Europeans to accept our kind of beef."

Winn Finner, staff economist with the USDA, pointed out a drop of \$3.70 in beef prices from 1962 to 1963. Approximately \$3.00 is directly a result of increased domestic production, about 50 cents to increased imports and about 20 cents to an increase in production of bionlets, pork and other meats.

He said the Federal Government has a five pronged attack on the beef problem: the purchase program, beef promotion programs, the food commission study, possible increased exports, and trade agreements.

"We have never said imports are the biggest problem," Lyle Liggett of the American National Cattlemen's Association said. "There are three major problems — imports, numbers and tonnage."

Numbers of cattle presents no real problem unless a drought should force bunched marketings, he said. Tonnage can not be changed without a change in attitude or grading, or a shortage of feed supplies. There will be no change in tonnage as long as farmers are used to feeding up the crop.

"Maybe we can't do anything quickly about numbers or tonnage, but we can do something about imports," he concluded.

Harvested forages — hay, silage and green chop — make up about 15 per cent of all feed consumed by livestock.



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