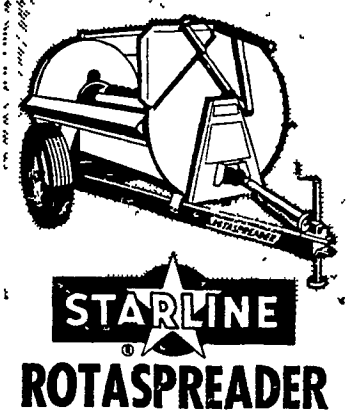


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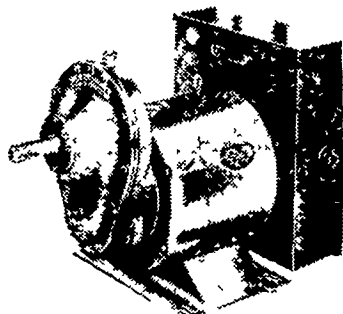
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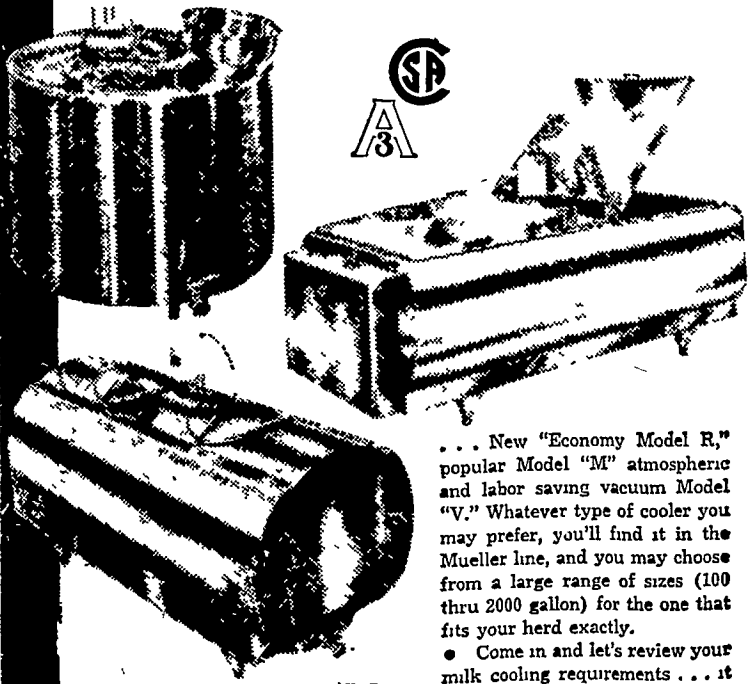
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ELEVEN AND ONE-HALF inches is the measurement on this hybrid poplar tree trunk, says Morton Fry, right. Miles Fry and Dr. Miroslaw Czapowskyj, at left, had just estimated the height of the nine-year-old tree at 60 feet. It is one of a row of roadside trees Fry set out in 1959 as two-year-old stock.

L. F. Photo

● Hybrid Poplars

(Continued from Page 1)
is no biological competition, creates good hybrid poplar growing conditions. Once the trees become established, the scientist said, they begin to change the nature of the landscape. Wind-blown soil collects and micro-organisms begin to accumulate to do their vital work.

The Frys and their visitor toured the tree plots and observed the 53 clones growing there. Most of these have distinct characteristics which make them suitable for various purposes. Some, for instance, grow tall very rapidly. Others throw many branches, making them suitable for shade trees. Still others feature decorative leaves. But one characteristic of all the hybrid poplars is their fast growth.

Fry reported that one-year-old trees would average 6-7 feet tall; two-year olds 14-18 feet; and by three years the average hybrid poplar in good soil might be 20-feet tall, or more. The group saw a roadside row of the trees which were planted in 1959 as two-year-old trees. They now tower 50-60 feet into the air and measure 10-12 inches in diameter.

Trees For Farmers

Most of the Fry trees are sold to farmers, Miles said, adding that garden centers are also demanding an increasing number of the hybrids for sale to home owners. Farmers have found these trees valuable as windbreaks, woodlot, pulpwood, and for lining farm lanes. Fry felt the possibilities for pulpwood production with hybrid poplars in the coming years were tremendous.

As an added enterprise the Frys are also producing crown vetch for sale. They started this experimentally three years ago and expect this fall to sell 50,000-60,000 plants. These make excellent ground cover for banks and erosion ditches, Fry said, and, as plants, will adapt well on spoil banks.

Mrs. Fry can attest to the interest—both in the form of orders and inquiries—that has been expressed by people all over the country. She handles all the correspondence and billing, and describes it as nearly a full-time job. As an example, one day's mail a while back contained 300 communications to be answered. "That took a few days to get done," she said.

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