

Wilt Expected On Early Sweet Corn This Year

Lancaster County's average winter temperature has been high enough to allow the corn flea beetle to overwinter in large enough numbers to cause a problem with bacterial wilt of early sweet corn varieties, cautioned Associate County Agent Arnold G. Lueck.

The corn flea beetles carry the wilt organism in their bodies. By feeding on the leaves of the small corn plants the beetles infect the plants, and the disease causes stunting and death of the sweet corn plants.

Lueck explains.

Growers of early sweet corn are advised that if possible, wilt susceptible varieties should not be grown. There are a few varieties known to be resist-

ant to wilt. Where susceptible varieties such as North Star, Northern Belle and Sugar and Gold are grown, it is possible to reduce wilt infection by using an insecticide to control the beetles. Lueck advises spraying carbaryl on the young

plants when the first leaves begin to flatten out, and repeating every 5 to 7 days.

It is commonly known that bacterial wilt becomes more destructive after mild winters, but mid-season and the later varieties of sweet corn are not

as susceptible to wilt, Lueck notes.

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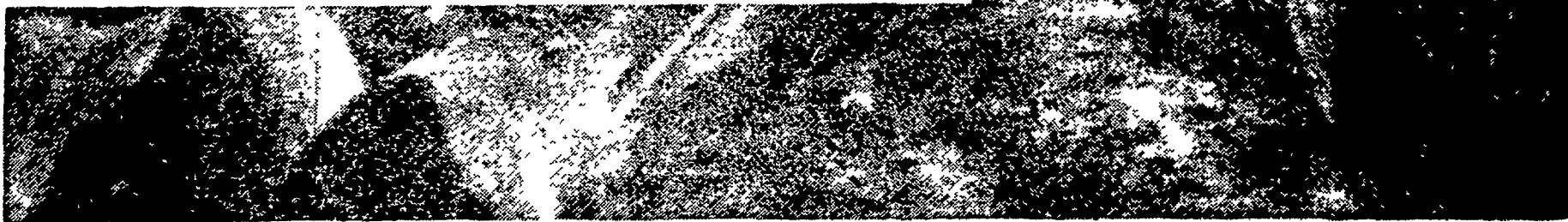
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