



The Lititz Firemen were called to extinguish a trash fire which had gotten out of control and ignited a 20 by 40 foot chicken house on the property owned by Philip Eyster, Lititz R3. The chicken house was unoccupied at the time, but there was

some concern for awhile for a large barn located 50 feet from the chicken house.

Joseph Zahn and Ross Peters are the tenants who are living on the property. The fire was Wednesday afternoon.

L. F. Photo

Get Lawn Mower Set For Spring

Spring has arrived, grass is green and growing, and now is the ideal time to get that power lawn mower in shape for the coming season if you neglected to do so last fall.

Thomas H. Williams, extension agricultural engineer at the University of Delaware, suggests that you begin by washing the mower with kerosene or fuel oil to remove any dirt, grease, oil or clippings that may have accumulated during last season. Drain the gas tank and carburetor and refill them with alcohol, soaking them long enough to dissolve any gum that may have formed over the winter.

Next remove the air cleaner and clean it according to manufacturer's instructions. Drain dirty oil from the crankcase and

replace it with fresh oil of the proper weight.

Remove and clean or replace the spark plug and pour a small amount of gasoline in the tank. Start the engine and let it run until the fuel is used. Now lubricate wheel bearings and moving parts.

Finally, check the blade and sharpen or replace it if necessary. If you sharpen the blade,

take care not to sharpen it out of balance, cautions Williams. Finish the job by lightly coating the blade with oil to prevent rust.

Simple care and maintenance of your mower now can save a great deal of time and effort in the months ahead, he concludes.

In the school of experience, you get the test first and the lesson last.

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Planning Cover For Shooting Grounds Varies

There's as much difference in planning wildlife cover for shooting grounds as there is in planning conservation cropping systems for general farms.

Take the case of Dr. Fierman Gailey Jr., of York County.

Dr. Gailey, a local orthopedic surgeon, wanted a place in the country that he could develop for wildlife and for training his German shorthair pointers. He was primarily interested in getting cover suitable for field trials for hunting dogs.

This turned out to be quite a different matter than growing cover for shooting grounds that emphasize hunting and strive for optimum harvest of game.

In Pennsylvania, commercially regulated shooting grounds use a great deal of moderately high growing vegetation, such as sericea lespedeza, sudangrass, sorghum, and switchgrass. However, when the grounds are to be used for field trials, the owners prefer perennial low-growing grasses that

provide cover less than 2 feet high. The most successful have been reed canarygrass, smooth brome grass, and tall fescue.

Soon after Dr. Gailey purchased his farm, he became a co-operator with the York County Soil and Water Conservation District. Work Unit Conservationist Robert Young and Clayton L. Heiney (Wildlife biologist, SCS, Harrisburg) worked with him in developing a plan for his land. In 5 years, he tried nearly 2 dozen species of grasses and legumes and an equal number of shrubs.

It was found that smooth brome grass, reed canarygrass, and tall fescues were most suitable for field trials because they provide excellent cover for planting of birds, and the vegetation does not obscure the visitors' view of the trials. Dr. Gailey prefers the perennial grasses to the annuals, such as sorghum and sudangrass, because they require little labor for maintenance.

Now, more than a dozen field trials are held each year on his farm. They attract hunting dog enthusiasts from all over the eastern seaboard.

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