

Two Plants Can't Grow In Same Space

Two plants can not grow in the same space at the same time. Pasture grasses and weeds

can not both occupy the same spot.

But "It is amazing to observe the weedy pastures in Maryland," says Dr. James Parochetti, University of Maryland weed control specialist.

"Broadleaved weeds are the most common, and there is usually no need to live with these weeds," he adds. "They are literally robbing the farmer in many ways; some of the weeds are poisonous; they steal water; they steal nutrients, and — most important — they steal space."

Thistles and buttercups are the most abundant weed in many pastures. "Consider the bull thistle," he says, "It is not common to see 100 to 1,000 plants per acre."

"The bull thistle will grow to a considerable height, and at maturity will be about three feet in diameter." A plant this size can occupy as much as four square feet. A thousand thistles of this size on an acre would take 10 per cent of the area out of grass.

Many farmers fertilize pastures at considerable expense. Dr. Parochetti adds. For about a dollar per acre, they could add a pound of 2,4-D and wipe out many of the broadleaved weeds that are robbing them and their livestock.

Some of the perennial and biennial weeds will need to be retreated for permanent control, but there is no need to live with these space thieves in pasture fields.

Milk Plants Dwindling, Yet Fewer Are Producing More

Milk plants are going out of business at the rate of about 800 a year. In fact, some 14,000 fluid milk processing plants went out of business between 1948 and 1965, according to the Economic Research Service for the National Commission on Food Marketing. Here are some characteristics of today's dairy industry, according to the report:

The plants producing ice cream and other manufactured products decreased by about one-third in the period between 1944 and 1961.

In 1964, the four top dairy firms in the nation ran 7 per cent of all plants processing fluid milk. They made more than a fifth of the total value of shipments. Output for the top four was more than three times the value of shipments by the fifth to eighth largest firms.

In 1964 the four largest firms accounted for 89 per cent of the fluid milk processed in the smallest of the federal milk order markets studied. The share of the top four was only 52 per

cent in the biggest markets. Being small is no asset in the dairy business. Among other problems, the small-volume business must cope with higher costs both fixed and variable. The difference gets larger day by day with new techniques demanding costly new equipment and facilities.

The large, well advertised firm can more readily create acceptance for its product than the smaller one. And acceptance translates itself back into volume, as well as price. Procurement, too, may be a more expensive process for the smaller firm.

Since it is the little milk producers who are leaving and the bigger ones who are staying in the business, there are more than enough to keep the nation well supplied with milk, ice cream and all the other variations of "nature's most nearly perfect food"

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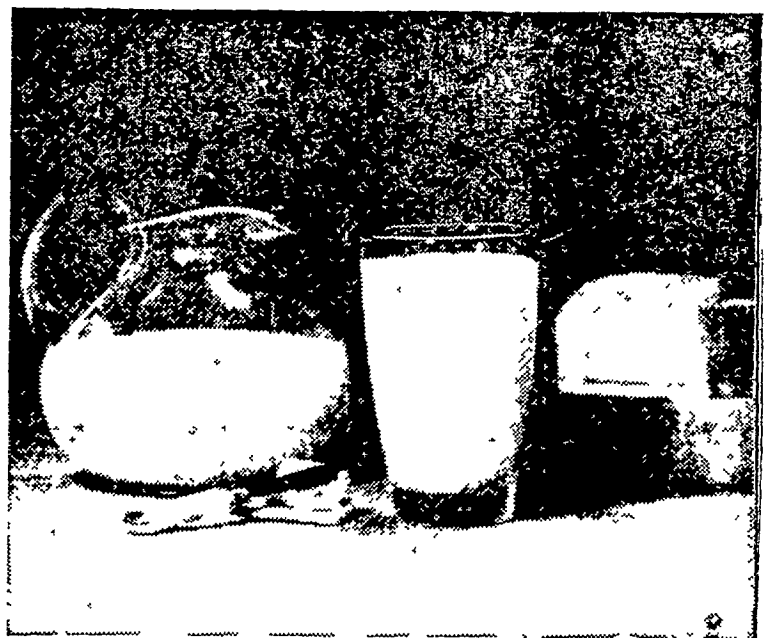
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it's June Dairy Month

Let's celebrate the occasion by being extra sure to eat tasty, nutritious dairy products at every meal.

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