

● Smith Cautions
(Continued from Page 1)

of Atrazine per acre as a residual herbicide to keep weed growth down.

These materials may be applied together in 30 to 60 gallons of water per acre. Application of the herbicide should be done at least 10 days before planting time.

The conventional practice of plowing down fertilizer is not possible with the no-till method, however, some research work reveals that corn will respond favorably to surface applications of nitrogen and potash.

Some forms of nitrogen such as anhydrous ammonia may be applied down into the soil before planting.

Also, it is strongly suggested that fertilizer be placed in the row at planting time using a complete fertilizer high in phosphorus. Adequate fertility is a must for no-till corn growing.

The problem of getting sufficient phosphorus into the soil for no-till corn growing is hard to solve. However, one method to meet this need is to plow the field with a moldboard plow every 4 to 5 years.

This is a recognized weed, plant disease, and soil insect control measure and highly desirable for a smooth seedbed prior to sod establishment.

In addition, plowing will provide an opportunity to incorporate lime, phosphorus, potash, and organic matter throughout the topsoil profile.

In relation to planting rates it is recommended that 2,000 more kernels be planted per acre with the no-till method as compared to the conventional corn planter method. This heavier planting rate is suggested to offset the lower germination percentage due to lower soil temperatures under the sod, heavy soil cover, and the heavier potential bird, mice, and slug damage.

Even though soil temperatures may be lower in the spring, and germination slower, this delay with no-till may be easily made up during the heat of the summer because of the mulch cover providing lower soil temperatures and greater moisture holding properties.

In view of the above information regarding no-till corn growing, local growers may want to try part of their acreage with this system, providing planting equipment is available.

No doubt corn growing practices are headed for many changes and the plan of producing corn on the same ground for

No-Till — Use Care

Max Smith, county agent, this week warned that no-till planting of corn can produce poor results if done improperly.

No-till is a new process with different equipment and know-how required from what area farmers have been used to, Smith explained. In the accompanying article, Smith explains some of the possible problems that need to be overcome by no-till farmers.

While urging farmers to be careful about using the new corn concept, Smith also noted that corn growing practices are undergoing extensive change and no-till may have a good future for those farmers who use it properly.

a number of continuous years may help dictate some of these changes.

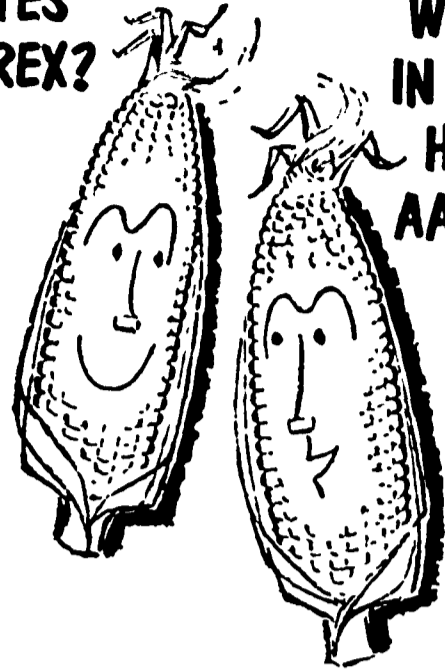
Powers Cites Penn State Policy on Pesticides

All Penn State recommendations on pesticides must conform with all State and Federal laws. In addition, Penn State pesticide recommendations are made with the idea of eliminating the use of all persistent pesticide materials, except where no reasonable substitute material can be suggested, reports Robert A. Powers Jr., Chester County agent.

This is the reason why Penn State recommendations do not include either Aldrin or Chlordane as suggested materials for Corn Root Worm control. Both materials are very persistent in the soil for a number of years. Use of either one could result in illegal residues in milk or meat, and result in loss of farmers' markets. This is a foolish gamble for producers to take at this time.

This policy by the University has been in effect for a number of years. The current pesticide controversy dictates that this is the only wise policy for a public institution to follow in making suggestions on protecting public food supplies and the environment, Powers said.

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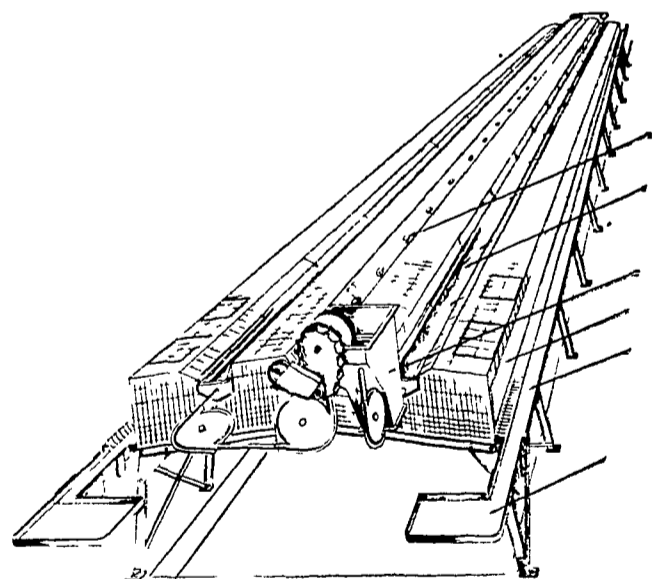
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