

# Md. Extension Men Advise on Blight

The following summary of the present Southern Corn Blight situation and what to do about it over the Winter was presented by the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service but may have local interest:

Seed corn produced by old-fashioned detasseling methods will receive prime attention from corn growers laying in seed supplies for the 1971 crop, both in Maryland and throughout the U S

Chief demand will come from those farmers who suffered lower-than-expected yields from serious infections of the Southern corn leaf blight this year, according to Dr Leslie O Weaver, Extension plant pathologist at the University of Maryland

Both he and Dr V. Allan Bandel, Extension agronomy specialist at Maryland, advise farmers to examine the bag tags when buying seed corn for next year

Most seed companies will be utilizing a voluntary plan for identifying seed corn according to its method of production — or source of cytoplasm — and thereby identifying its probable resistance to the Southern corn leaf blight

Seed from foundation stock detasseled in the conventional manner will be designated by an "N" for "normal" This corn is considered resistant to blight.

Corn produced from non-detasseled Texas male sterile lines will be identified with a "T" on the label Such corn is susceptible to *Helminthosporium maydis*, the scientific name for Southern corn leaf blight Blends identified by a "B," will contain a mixture of blight-resistant "N" seed and blight-susceptible "T" seed

Due to excessive cost from the large number of sprayings required, field spraying with

fungicides during the growing season is not considered generally feasible for controlling the Southern corn leaf blight Furthermore, it is very likely that the blight-causing fungus spores will over-winter under typical Maryland conditions, Dr Bandel pointed out in a recent letter to county Extension specialists

Planting resistant hybrids appears to be the only effective way of combating the disease Unfortunately, a sufficient supply of resistant (N) seed will not be available in 1971 Some blends (B) of resistant and susceptible hybrids will be sold in Maryland Non-resistant hybrids and blends should be planted as early as possible (but not earlier than normally recommended) to minimize damage should the blight arrive late in the season

Dr Bandel also recommends these procedures for corn growers in his recent information letter:

— Chop your stalks this fall and disk them in Do a careful, clean job of plowing in the spring to make sure that all residue is turned under

— Plant more than one variety

of corn to minimize risks, since hybrids lines vary considerably in their resistance to leaf blight

— Consider other cropping alternatives, such as forage sorghums instead of corn for silage Grain sorghum or soybeans as partial replacement for corn are also possibilities But be sure there is a good market for any substitute you might select

— Ask your county Extension agricultural agent for information on varieties of corn which showed resistance or sus-

ceptibility in your area during the 1970 growing season But resistance to the Southern corn leaf blight in 1970 does not guarantee that the variety will perform similarly in 1971

The Maryland agronomist cautioned farmers to avoid the temptation of planting F2, or second-generation seed corn, even if it came from blight-resistant parent stock Such corn may not be adapted to your area. It is not in itself a hybrid and does not possess the hybrid vigor of its parents, he pointed out.

## Adults Can Nourish, Stop Child's Desire to Learn

Each year our country loses hundreds of potentially bright children because of intellectual starvation, according to James E Van Horn, extension family life specialist, at Pennsylvania State University.

Although heredity may determine the level of a child's intellectual ability, it's the environment and adults in it that determine if he uses his capabilities.

Most children seem to be born with a joy for learning and a strong sense of accomplishment Adults can nourish or starve this joy, reminds Van Horn.

Picking up a bit of yarn can bring delight to a baby, and the mother who can say "pretty" as she looks at his treasure is helping her child in learning to explore the new and gain inner satisfaction

Given an opportunity to explore, children will learn. Their questions are real and need answers, simple one They don't need a lecture When they want more information, they'll ask another question.

The ability to stick to a task over a reasonable period of time is a key to wholesome intellectual achievement, says Van Horn Young children are said to have short attention spans This may be true when one demands that a child pay attention But if he is involved in a self-directed or self-controlled situation, he may work for an indefinite period of time

Children need tangible rewards for good performance when they are learning Parents can help older children to recognize the pleasure of using their full power and to know the satisfaction that comes with success, Van Horn adds

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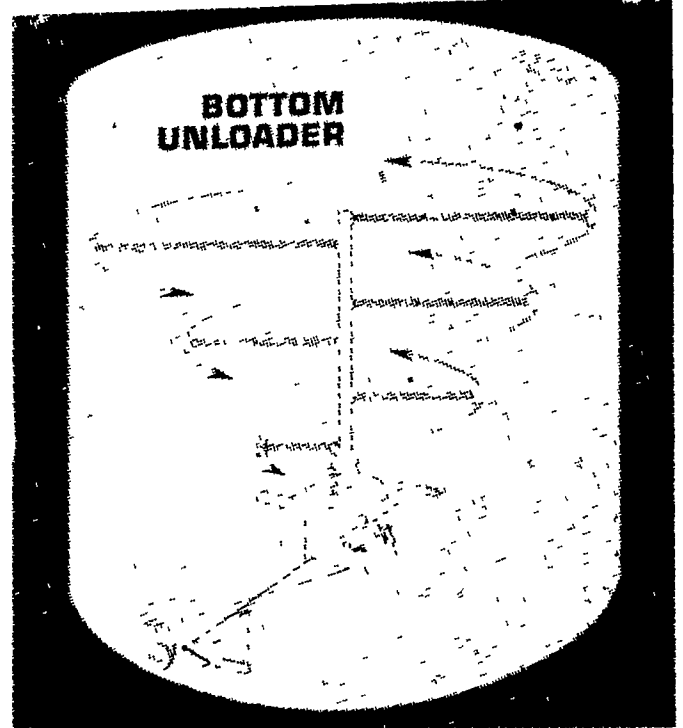
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