

'Favorite Recipe' Has Timely Topic, Rhubarb

We received more than a dozen rhubarb recipes, representing a wide variety of ways to prepare this favorite farm food.

The recipes include two rhubarb upside down cakes

There are three pies, including gelatine, cream, and custard.

There is a rhubarb manna pudding and rhubarb crunch

There is a rhubarb tapioca, and a strawberry rhubarb sauce

In the area of molded desserts, there is a pineapple rhubarb mold and a rhubarb salad ring.

We also received a rhubarb punch recipe, from a reader in Auburn, New York.

Addresses of other housewives who sent recipes this week include: Lancaster, Ephrata, Peach Bottom, Mount Joy, Quarryville, Nottingham, and Strasburg.

When rhubarb first comes up in the spring, most housewives

won't have much trouble preparing something tasty for the family.

But as the summer comes on, and the family's taste buds grow accustomed to rhubarb, we think the housewife will want to refer back to some of these recipes for a change of pace.

And why not try one or two right away? We're sure that there's something here for every family.

The recipe we received include:

Rhubarb Sauces

A big favorite among local housewives is the rhubarb sauces. Those we received this week include the following Strawberry Rhubarb Sauce by Mrs. Elmer Brubaker, Mount Joy RD1:

3 oz. Strawberry Jello
1 cup sugar
2 cups rhubarb

Cook rhubarb in a little water. Then add enough water to make 2½ cups, add sugar and Jello. Do not add water to Jello, just stir in mixture from box till set.

You can also use 3½ cups to 4 cups of rhubarb sauce as a good topping for tapioca pudding, Mrs. Brubaker says.

Mrs. Weaver Nolt, Ephrata RD1, sent her Rhubarb-Tapioca recipe

2 quarts diced rhubarb (frozen or fresh)
1 quart water
Bring to boil
Add 1 cup tapioca
or
4 tablespoons clear jell (made into a paste with water)

Stir frequently and boil until thick. Add sugar to taste. Remove from heat. Add one quart strawberries (frozen or fresh). Chill. Serve with whipped cream or marshmallows or just plain. Very good. This is a very delicious and colorful dessert, Mrs. Nolt says.

Rhubarb Pies

Pies in any form are a big favorite locally and so it is no surprise that rhubarb finds its way into many rhubarb pies.

Three rhubarb pie recipes we received include this Rhubarb Custard Pie from Virginia Messimer, Nottingham

3 cups raw rhubarb cut in about 1 inch pieces
3 eggs beaten (You can use 2 yolks and 2 whole eggs, saving whites for meringue)
2 full cups sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons flour

Combine ingredients, put in crust, dot with butter and bake 40 minutes at 350°. Cover with meringue and bake 15 minutes more

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Researcher Outlines Some Factors Influencing Corn Blight

A unique set of weather conditions needed to cause southern corn leaf blight (Race T) increase the probability that the disease may not strike Midwest corn fields any earlier than it did in 1970.

In fact, a scientist who tried to cause blight last year was unsuccessful until the temperature and humidity reached a certain level, and that was in July.

Therefore, concludes the researcher, Gordon Scheifele, a doctoral candidate in plant

pathology at the University of Illinois, any serious blight problem may not be expected until summer.

Scheifele, who also is a P.A.G. associate plant pathologist and plant breeder, attempted to establish blight early last spring as a scientific experiment.

"Except for initial infections, it was impossible," he said. "It's my contention that we may get some initial infection on lower foliage in the spring. But until the corn is grown to the point

where there is a canopy spread over the field and we have warm nights and high humidity, we don't expect a rapid buildup and spread of the organism

"The end of June or the beginning of July is the earliest we expect to encounter a blight epidemic in central Illinois."

The potential for blight has been around for many years, especially in 1969. Scheifele's advisor at Pennsylvania State University, Dr. R. R. Nelson, identified Race T in the fall of

1970 on herbarium specimens collected in 1955 in the U.S.

However, according to Scheifele, the proper environmental conditions just did not exist until 1970. These conditions include:

Inoculum. The degree of blight is dependent upon the amount of inoculum existing in the fall and how much survives the winter.

Spring conditions. The weather in the spring is very important for the inoculum still living. A lot of alternate thawing and freezing will reduce blight survival.

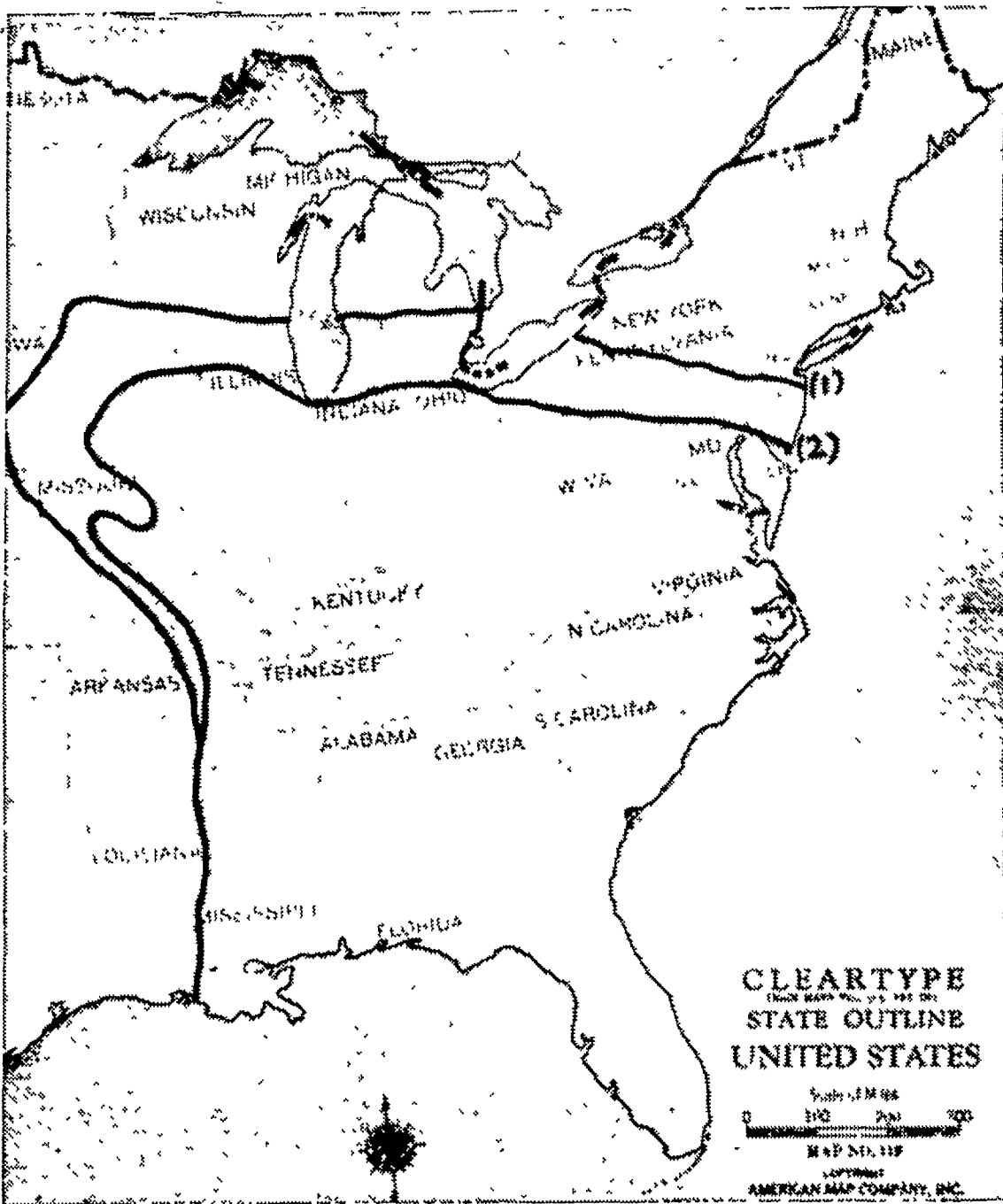
A DeKalb researcher has been quoted as saying, "When we freeze and thaw the blight fungus two or three times we can't find it."

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Editor's Note: These two articles from Geigy News on the corn blight and its potential in the 1971 season represent, we believe, a good summary of the many articles which have come across our desk in recent weeks.

From the farmer's standpoint, the articles explain both the conditions under which the blight grows and the types of practices necessary to combat it.

While we still do not believe that the corn blight is a major threat to the local corn crop this year, we do think the farmer should play it safe by using the type of cultural practices suggested in these articles. According to the best available knowledge at this time, these practices will keep blight damage to a minimum if it does strike.



This map shows the penetration of Southern corn leaf blight in 1970. Line (1) shows the northern limit of infestation, while line (2) indicates the northern limit of economic damage. According to DeKalb AgResearch, blight potential for 1971

must be considered as great as it was last year and will probably infect about the same areas. Note that Southeastern Pennsylvania is in the area of infestation and approximately on the border of the area of economic damage.

Need for Weed Control In Corn Is Emphasized

The threat of blight will put extreme pressure on a farmer's crop management techniques this year. Good weed control will play an even bigger role than usual.

Prices will be up, resistant seed supplies will be limited and farmers will be under pressure to get the absolute maximum out of their fields.

That's the report of two Geigy specialists — J. D. De Kraker, market planning specialist, and Dr. John Hartnett, staff plant pathologist — after returning from a fact-finding trip to several major corn seed producers and to plant pathologists at University of Illinois, Iowa State University and Purdue University.

"In terms of importance, those we talked with thought proper weed control ranks right behind early planting as something a farmer can do to reduce the effects of blight," they explain. "Using a season-long herbicide like AAtrex will be especially important this year.

Stress can affect corn plants at various times during the season, making them more susceptible to blight, or any other plant diseases.

Pre-emergence and early sea-

son weed control help to reduce stress while plants are growing vigorously and are more susceptible to injury from cold spring weather. Mid- and late-season weed control helps to cut down on competing plant populations that will reduce available nutrients and moisture.

Stretch planting, has been suggested to make limited seed supplies go further. A possible side effect of this is to reduce plant populations, thereby increasing air circulation in the fields.

Since humidity is higher in densely planted fields and high humidity is conducive to spread of blight, the Geigy team thinks this idea might have some merit. Weed control also plays a key role.

"Good weed control not only will help to prevent stress from inadequate fertility and moisture, but will also help by allowing better air circulation to promote drying and lower humidity," the Geigy experts emphasize.

"Last year blight damage was more severe in weedy fields than it was in clean ones."

Obviously, balanced fertilization, insect control and other crop management practices also play a role in reducing stress, they conclude.