

Researcher Outlines Some Factors Influencing Corn Blight

(Continued from Page 29)

Dr. Nelson of Penn State has found that blight loses much of its virulence when night-time temperatures alternate between warm and cool and when there are changes between wet and dry conditions

Time of planting. Early planting means corn can be growing good before the weather conditions are suitable for an invasion of blight Scheifele is a strong advocate of early planting

Summer weather. At one time last summer, says Scheifele, the night-time temperature was right (68-70°), but there was very little dew and low humidity As a result there was almost no spread of blight When the humidity increased, the spread was rapid

Last summer in Iowa two periods of abnormally humid weather were noted in late July and early August The latter period had 93 consecutive hours with a relative humidity exceeding 80 per cent and 154 hours exceeding 72 per cent

Iowa State University reports that leaf blight inoculum was present before these two periods, but conditions were not conducive to infection and spread of blight

Susceptibility of host. For instance, in the deep South, even though the proper environmental conditions may exist, blight will likely not be serious because much of the seed planted will be blight resistant, says Scheifele

He recommends that a farmer go ahead with the program he thinks best for himself and attempt to get his corn in the ground as early as possible, without taking undue risks

All data indicate that blight problems are more severe on late planted fields than on those planted early.

Scheifele points out that good cultural programs will be more important this year than ever before.

"The farmer should do everything possible to get his corn plants healthy and vigorous, including good fertilization and good weed control"

Although corn should be fertilized, Scheifele says, this is not the time for excess nitrogen. This is not the year to try

for that extra 20 bushel per acre on blight susceptible hybrids.

It's the year to maintain a yield that will allow a farmer to reach a profitable level of corn income. Anything that stresses the plant should be avoided

"All a farmer can do," says Scheifele, "is to plant his corn crop early, using good management practices, and then wait for summer If blight problems occur, I don't believe they will be serious until summer in the areas of the North Central corn belt"

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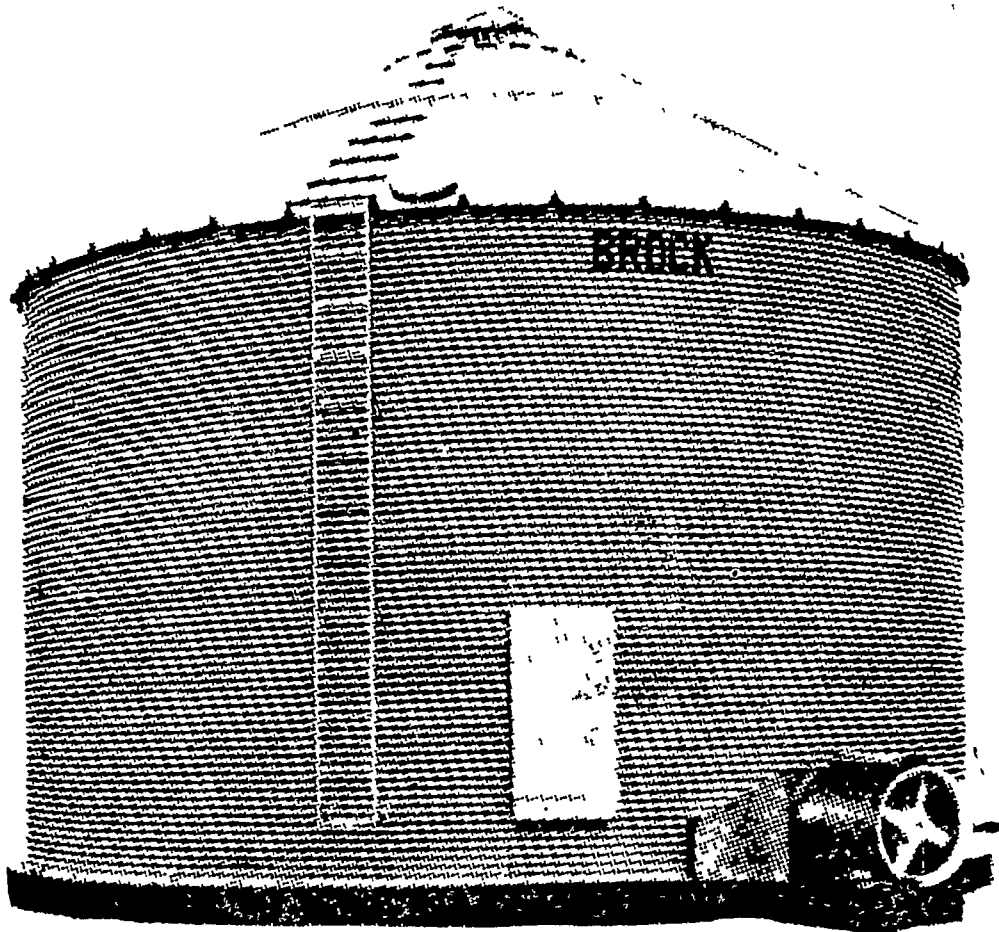


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Chester County Women Plan Homemaker Meet

Three Chester County women were among 24 from 10 counties who attended a planning meeting recently for the Southeast Homemaker Seminar in October

The three are Mrs Robert Chambers, Unionville, Mrs C. G. Bigelow Jr., Wayne and Mrs Robert Smiley, Chester Springs

The seminar is scheduled for October 19 and 20, at the Holiday Inn The theme selected is "The Widening World of Women"

Speakers selected to participate in the seminar are Dr. Haim Ginott and the Honorable Juanita Kidd Stout

In addition, workshops for smaller groups include Trends in Leisure Time, What Image Do I Present, Women's Involvement in the Money World, Ways of Continuing Education Personally, Parent-Child Relationships and Communications, Social Health Problems, Consumer Concerns, Changing Values and Changing Life Styles

The Chester County women reported that it was a good experience to meet with these representatives from the other counties.