

Why Weed Control Is Necessary



We think this photo is a self-contained editorial.

In the center is a row of corn in a local field which was accidentally skipped by herbicide.

In the skipped row, the weeds are nearly as tall as the corn. The corn averages more than a foot shorter in the weedy row than treated rows on either side. The plant population is not as high in the weedy row, indicating some corn plants were killed by the competing weeds.

The weedy corn is also several days later in stage of maturity. While the treated corn is near full tassel, the weedy corn has not even begun to tassel.

Looking ahead, it is easy to project that the treated rows will produce an earlier and much better yielding crop. Depending on how severe the weeds and how high the treated corn crop yield, we would anticipate a yield of as much as twice as good in the treated rows.

Fortunately, our reports indicate local farmers are increasingly aware of how much loss can result from weeds and grass in corn. Weeds and grass rob the corn of sunlight, moisture and nutrients.

Despite the losses that weeds and grass cause, we observed a couple of corn fields last year in which the weeds were completely out of control.

Much more common, observation shows and reports confirm, is the field in which partial control is achieved. While partial control is better than none, the degree to

which weeds and grass go unchecked is the degree to which they will cut down on production.

While farmers who are content to produce 100 to 125 bushels of corn on good ground may have some leeway with weeds and management practices, the growing numbers of farmers who are aiming for 150-plus bushels per acre must do everything just right. That includes good weed and grass control.

In our diverse farm community, farmers use many different methods to get the job done. Any of them can be very successful if the farmer knows what he is doing, why he is doing it and does it.

Occasionally, we hear about a farmer who felt he couldn't afford to buy the herbicide with which to control his weeds and so ended up with a very poor crop. Since various research shows that the farmer likely will have to grow 75 bushels per acre or more just to meet costs, it's apparent that the profit in corn is in high yields.

The farmer who can't get weed control — and therefore can't get a good crop — without herbicides, we suggest, can't afford not to use herbicides. While the value of herbicides will vary considerably from farm to farm, depending on management practices, the individual farmer may easily get a return of five to one for his herbicide investment.

No matter how it's done, weed control is essential. Examine our photo again to see why.

Check Your Corn Often

Farmers should continue to pay very close attention to the progress of their corn from day to day. This should include close examination for both disease and insects.

The Southern Corn Blight has already received much attention. If it strikes, the farmer may be able to minimize his losses

by harvesting the crop as corn silage at an early date.

There have also been reports of pests in many fields. In particular, the armyworm was an early problem.

Now it's time for first signs of the corn rootworm. We understand some adult rootworms have already been spotted in a few fields.

Last year, it was reported that the rootworm had reached large numbers in some fields with continuous corn and farmers were advised to take remedial action this year if the rootworm existed in large numbers last year.

As the corn crop matures, farmers this year need to watch for the rootworm to see if the control program they used has been successful or to be aware if the pest becomes well established in new areas.

A few minutes a day spent checking the progress and condition of the corn crop, we believe, in the long run will be time very profitably spent.

NOW IS THE TIME . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



To Control Japanese Beetle

For a time we thought the Japanese beetle was fading away and that we would not be bothered with them. However, in the past two years we are aware of an increase in number of this pest and they are feeding on flowers, ornamentals, fruit trees, and shade trees. In past years they consumed soybean plants and reduced pollination of corn because they ate the silk as fast as it grew. All folks are urged to control them now in order to prevent a build-up. Lawns and turf may be treated in spring or fall to kill the grub of the beetle and adults may now be killed by spraying with Sevin, Methoxychlor, or Malathion.

To Manage Dry Cows

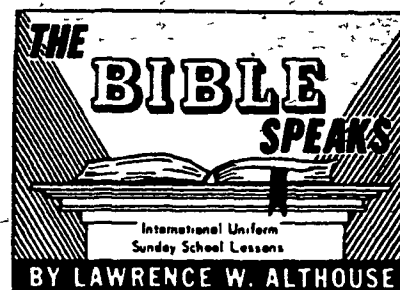
The incidence of twisted stomachs in dairy cows seems to be on the increase. A release from our Dr. Sam Guss at Penn State reminds dairymen that dry cows need liberal amounts of coarse roughage during the dry period and limited amounts of energy feeds. Roughage keeps the rumen active and prevents the several stomachs from getting out of proportion and out of place. Silage may be fed to dry cows, but hay, or other dry matter, should be included daily in the ration.

Garden Crops

Most garden crops will respond to special care at this time of the year; I refer to frequent shallow cultivation to kill the weeds and open the soil for faster water intake. Also, the mulching of such plants as tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers will conserve moisture and control weeds. This should be done soon in order to protect the plants during the heat of the summer. In garden soil that is not high in fertility, it might be beneficial to side-dress such crops as corn, tomatoes, and cucumbers with a complete garden fertilizer. Place it along the row about three inches from the plants and work into the topsoil; fertilize before mulching.

To Soil Test For Fall Seedings

August seedlings of alfalfa, as well as all seedlings of winter grain this fall, should be preceded by a complete soil test on the area. This will reveal the lime and fertilizer needs. These materials should be incorporated into the topsoil while the ground is being tilled rather than top-dress on the growing crop. Alfalfa is a heavy feeder of lime and will not survive in a sour soil. Most farm crops respond best when soils are nearly neutral (ph of 6.4 to 6.8) and winter grains are no exception.



FOLLOWING 'ORDERS'

Lesson for July 18, 1971

Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 17:8-11; Daniel 6; Acts 4:13-20; 1 Peter 2:13-17.
Devotional Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-19.

At the Nuremberg War Trials following the Second World War some of the defendants sought to justify their 'war crimes' by protesting that they had "only been following orders." They had been obedient to the laws of the Third Reich; surely they shouldn't be condemned for obeying the law? The Allies, however, said that they should have been obedient to a higher law than that of the state.



Rev. Althouse

orders"

Several months ago an American soldier was on trial for a similar "war crime." He too protested that he had "only been following orders." Ironically, the same American public which called for the prosecution of Germans at Nuremberg now found itself confused and upset by the very same issue. Instead of insisting that he too should have been obedient to a higher authority, many exalted his unquestioning obedience of the military authority.

We have had to realize that this problem of God and state is not so easy as we might have thought. On the one hand we are counseled by Paul: "Let every person be subject to the govern-

ing authorities . . . Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed . . ." (Romans 13:1,2). There is also Peter: "Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution . . ." (1 Peter 2:13).

These early Christian leaders recognized the value of government, law, and order, even when the rulers were not inclined to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For all its faults, it brought order and peace where it prevailed. Because man is a sinner and not perfectly good, and because in his rebelliousness against God he is capable of causing much harm and misery to others, he needs some source of authority to help him live a productive life. We wish men would always want to do the right thing, but they do not and so we need government and governors to help us along that line.

Right in the sight of God

Yet, having said this, we cannot forget that Jesus was unfairly tried and put to death as a subversive of the state. There is Peter and John standing before the Jewish court and protesting that they would have to obey God rather than men and there is also a long history of struggle between Christians and their states: John Hus, Martin Luther, Thomas More, Johnathan Edwards, etc.

How can we put these two seemingly paradoxical ideas together? Perhaps we must say, for one thing, that we must be subject to the state and its officials so long as our loyalty to God is not in danger. Order, even the imperfect order of a struggling government, is a blessing that must not be regarded lightly. Secondly, however, when we feel that our loyalty to our government is in conflict with our loyalty to God, we have no choice but to carefully and prayerfully steel ourselves to follow the highest "orders" of all.

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