

From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



The article this week was prepared by Arba Henry, vocational agriculture teacher at Solanco High School.

Spring Lawn Care

Every year hundreds of Lancaster County homeowners spend many dollars on lawn products. Unfortunately, however, not all of this money is well spent or produces the desired results. Now is the time to start preparing your lawn for this summer.

A soil test is probably the most important thing a homeowner should be concerned about at this time. Be careful where you take your soil samples in the yard - avoiding poorly drained areas, and getting samples throughout the yard and not concentrating in certain areas.

Homeowners building a new lawn or reviving an old one should keep in mind the following:

1. Remove any rocks and debris both on and under the soil surface.

2. Have topsoil that was removed during construction spread evenly over the lawn area. If topsoil is not available, add four six-cubic-foot bales of peat moss per 1,000 square feet.

3. Spread pulverized limestone over the lawn area in the amount determined by the soil test. If you



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do not test the soil, apply lime at the rate of 100 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

4. To provide nutrients needed for a vigorous new growth, apply 50 pounds of plant food per 1,000 square feet. Several good commercial types are available.

5. With a rotary tiller or spade, mix the peat, lime, and fertilizer into the top three or four inches of soil and prepare and even the seedbed.

6. Sow the lawn seed approximately five pounds per 1,000 square feet. Sow one-half the seed and then apply the balance working at right angles to the first application to assure an even seed distribution. Cover the seed by raking lightly or better still with one-fourth inch of fine soil or peat and firm by rolling followed by lightly sprinkling.

7. Sprinkle the new lawn gently but frequently. The first cutting should be made when grass height reaches 2½ to 3 inches, the mower set at two inches. The height of cut should not be changed until good sod is established.

For those who already have an established lawn certain seasonal care should be maintained.

1. Apply 50 to 75 pounds per 1,000 square feet of fine-ground limestone every two years of follow soil test.

2. Fertilize approximately 10 to 12 pounds of 10-10-10, 12-4-8, or 12-6-16 per 1,000 square feet. Usually an 80-pound bag is adequate for the average home lawn which is about 6-8,000 square feet.

3. For the first mowing you may wish to cut shorter than normal to remove any thatch, leaves, or debris which have accumulated and rake off the cuttings.

4. Mow the lawn fairly regularly never taking off more than one-fourth to one-half inch at

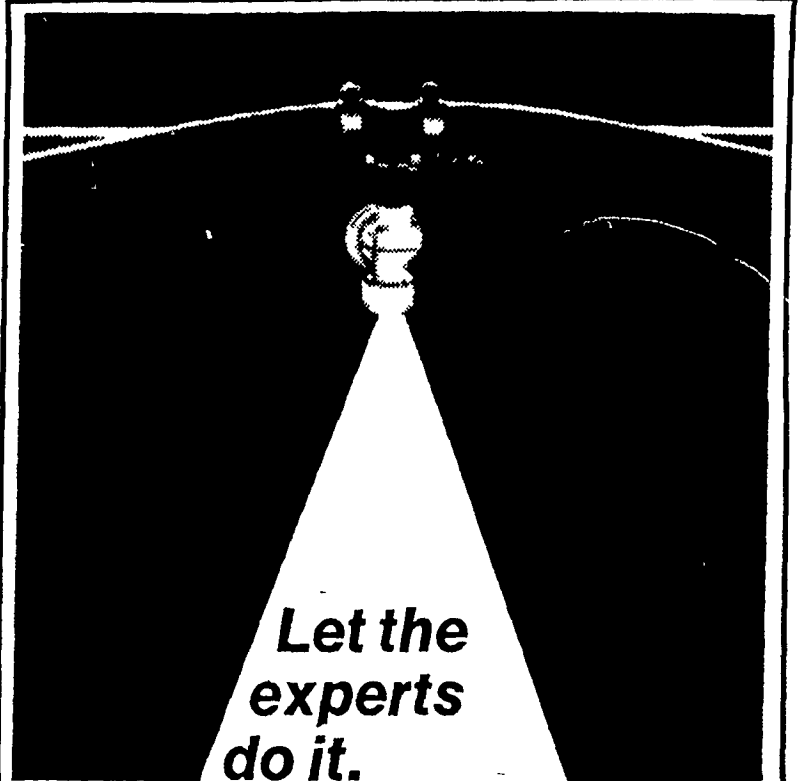
(Continued On Page 17)

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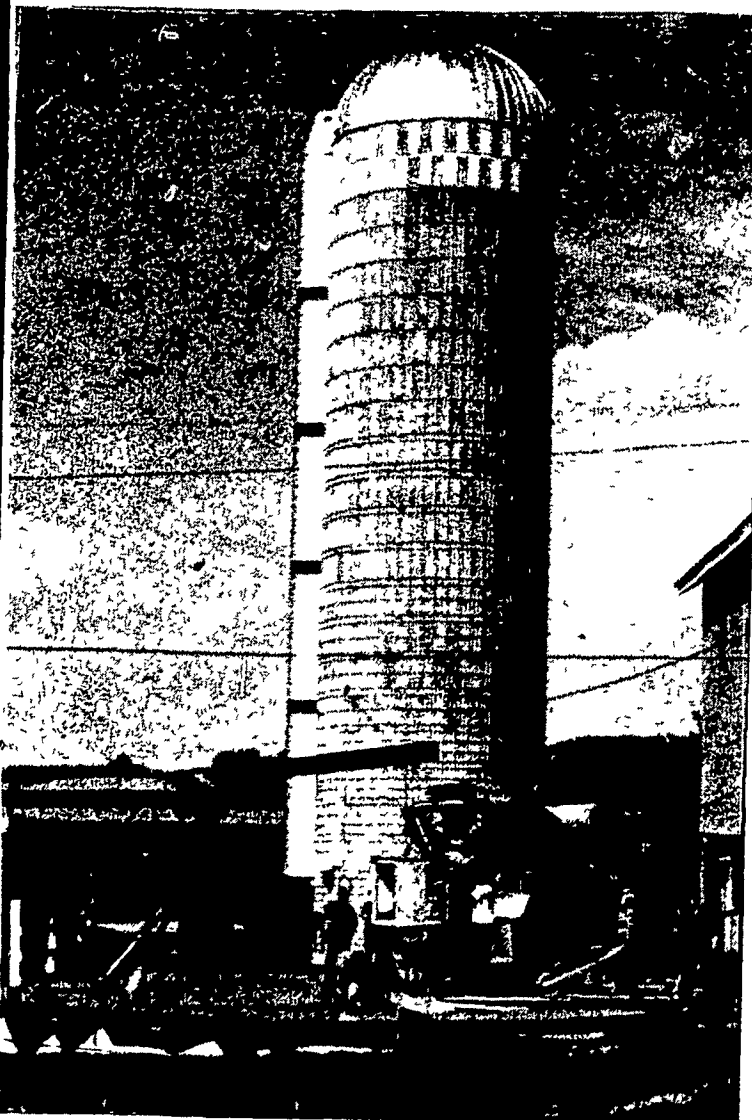
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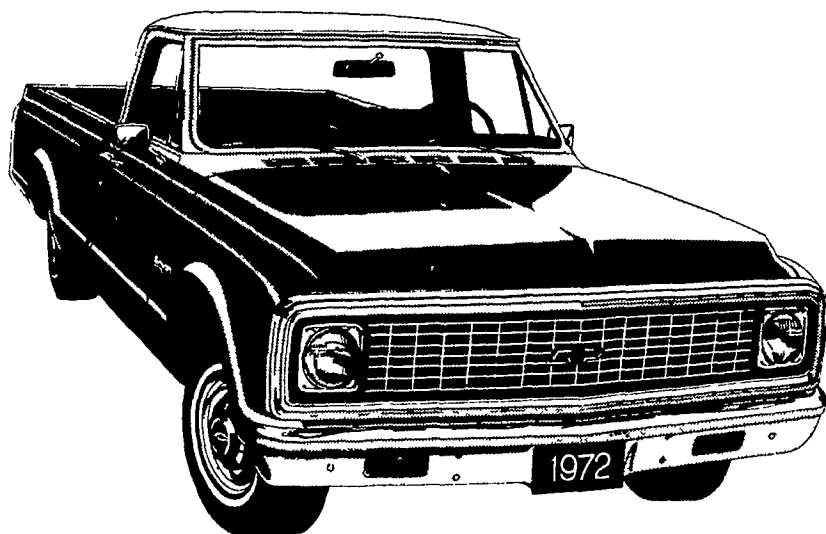
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