

Herbicides Aid No-Till Corn

No-till corn and perennial legumes such as birdsfoot trefoil or crownvetch can simultaneously produce corn while maintaining a cover crop for pasture, silage, or mulch, declared a weed scientist from The Pennsylvania State University recently in New York City.

The key to this double cropping is to suppress legume sod with herbicides at corn planting time while allowing adequate recovery of the legume by the fall, stated Dr. Nathan L. Hartwig of the College of Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State University. He addressed annual

meetings of the Northeast Weed Science Society of America.

Of 18 herbicide treatments in 1974, corn stands and yields were much better in birdsfoot trefoil than in crownvetch or smoothbrome grass, he affirmed. Under best conditions, the sod recovers after suppression to provide winter cover and a living mulch for next year's crop. This system does not work with alfalfa since alfalfa is too competitive, he said.

The most consistent herbicides were combinations of atrazine and simazine, atrazine and

cyanazine, or cyanazine alone. Corn yields from the best treatments averaged over 100 bushels per acre. After harvesting the corn for grain, stalks plus cover crop regrowth produced over 7,000 pounds of dry matter per acre.

Birdsfoot trefoil not only gave the best corn yields but was also the easiest perennial legume to suppress, followed by crownvetch. Smoothbrome grass was the most difficult to

suppress. Dr. Hartwig said crownvetch was the easiest to manipulate without danger of losing the sod from too much herbicide.

The ideal situation in double cropping, Dr. Hartwig said, is to provide a perennial cover crop that can be suppressed so as not to compete excessively with the corn but still recover in the fall to provide winter cover and a living mulch for next year's crop.

The control of redroot

pigweed and yellow foxtail was generally improved when crownvetch or smoothbrome grass were present, Dr. Hartwig pointed out. These two weeds were more of a problem in birdsfoot trefoil plantings than in crownvetch or smoothbrome grass. This occurred where the herbicide over-suppressed birdsfoot trefoil, the easiest perennial legume to control.

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Total assets totaled \$145,742,580 at year end, an increase of 7.9 percent. Loans increased 10.9 percent to \$95,851,464.

Trust Department activity again produced exceptional gains in 1974. Personal trust assets increased by \$4,115,387 to a total of \$12,687,975; an increase of 48 percent over year-end 1973.

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Bank, had a great start according to its President, George M. Lewis. The corporation had year-end total assets of \$1,386,435 which includes \$1,072,754 of agricultural loans providing area farmers with a much needed source of financing. Loans are available to persons actively engaged in farming.

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