

## Lawn Disease Spreads

Lawns damaged last year with a disease known as Helminthosporium leafspot and crown rot could get worse if treated early this spring with high levels of nitrogen fertilizer, cautions Dr. Herbert Cole of The Pennsylvania State University. As professor of plant pathology, he suggests waiting until late May or early June to apply lawn fertilizer.

Dr. Cole says Helminthosporium fungi thrive on cold, wet weather and

over-succulent soft grass often resulting from the over-use of nitrogen fertilizers in early spring. Known as "melting out," these leafspots and crown rots are probably the most common and severe disease of home lawns, he adds.

Spring symptoms of the disease show up as an abundance of spots on individual grass blades, often giving the lawn a brown or reddish cast. This normally occurs from late April to early May. Death of leaves and thinning of the lawn takes place. By late May or early June the disease has spread to crowns and roots and the grass literally melts away - giving the disease the title "melting out."

Not too many lawns need high levels of early spring nitrogen - disease or no disease, Dr. Cole claims. Applying an overall fertilizer program in early to mid June will provide nutrients for summer growth when many lawns really need it, he adds. Using excessive nitrogen in the spring just results in rapid growth with the need to mow twice a week or more, especially in wet weather. This accumulates clippings and organic matter that aren't needed - thus creating more problems than benefits.

Dr. Cole observes that Helminthosporium fungal organisms become active in the spring. Spores are released and are splashed by rain and water to newly-emerging grass leaves where leaf spots develop. Later the spores are washed to crown and root areas where crown rot and root rot develop. He indicates many homeowners were bothered with the disease last year.

Successive leaf infections reduce the foliage until only a single leaf or no leaves remain. At this stage the lawn is very susceptible to damage from people walking on it, children playing, or other uses. Loss of foliage can also result in invasions by weeds.

Helminthosporium fungi attack nearly every grass species found in the home lawn, Dr. Cole notes. Certain varieties of bluegrasses and fescues are quite susceptible. The bent and ryegrasses have their Helminthosporium disease. On golf courses, some bentgrass Helminthosporium diseases are mid or even late summer problems.

With most bluegrass lawns, reduced early spring fertilization may not only save grass but also money at current fertilizer prices.

## Sewing Course Series

Increased family clothing costs have created an interest among women and girls - and men and boys - in learning how to create clothes for themselves and their families.

To help you learn to sew, BEGINNING TO SEW - a series of 13, half-hour color programs, will teach you basic clothing construction skills at home. "Beginning to Sew" was produced by the Cooperative Extension Service of The Pennsylvania State University and WPSX-TV, the University's educational television station.

"Beginning to Sew" will be broadcast each week on WITF, Channel 33, Monday, 7:00 p.m. beginning March 31.

Ruth Ann Wilson, Extension clothing and textiles specialist, will show you the "how-to's" as they apply to children's clothing. She will help you create garments that have individuality and will be fun to wear as well as save you money.

Some of the topics covered in the series are tools for the job, know your sewing machine, fabric facts, patterns for children, facings and fasteners, pants, tops, raglan sleeves, knit jackets, set-in sleeves and collars, buttonholes, buttons and hems.

To find out how you can enroll, free of charge, in the "Beginning to Sew" series and receive your viewer's guide, contact the York County Extension Office, Court House, York, Pa. 17401 or phone 848-2101.

## Solanco 4-H Club

A reorganizational meeting of the Solanco 4-H Community Club will be held on April 11 at the Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Leaders for the club will be Ruth Akers - sewing; Dottie Richardson - cooking; Betsy Witman - knitting; Dennis and Charles Allen - photography and gardening; Clyde Aument - capons and Mike Huss - swine. Advisors for the Club are Everett Kreider, Jason Weaver and Gordon Herr. For further information on joining call: 786-2731 or 786-2531

### RIGHT AND LEFT

President James A. Garfield was ambidextrous. He demonstrated this ability by taking a pen in each hand and writing simultaneously in Greek and Latin.

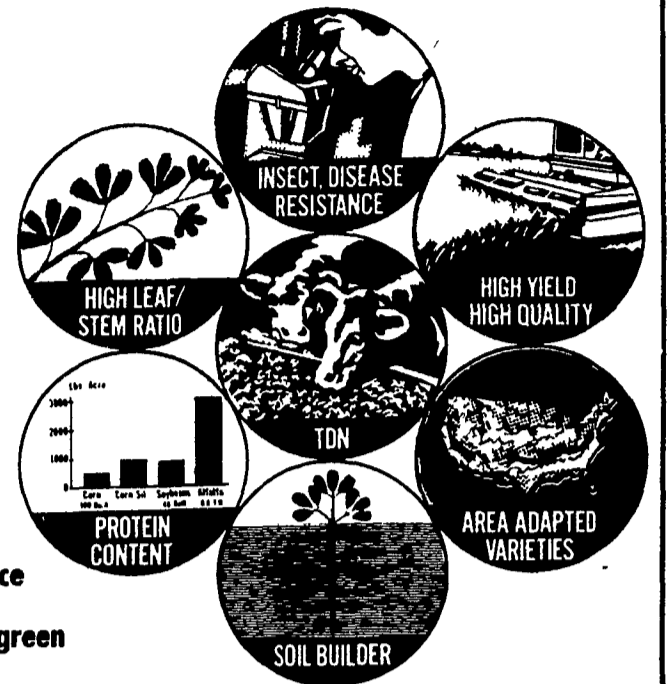
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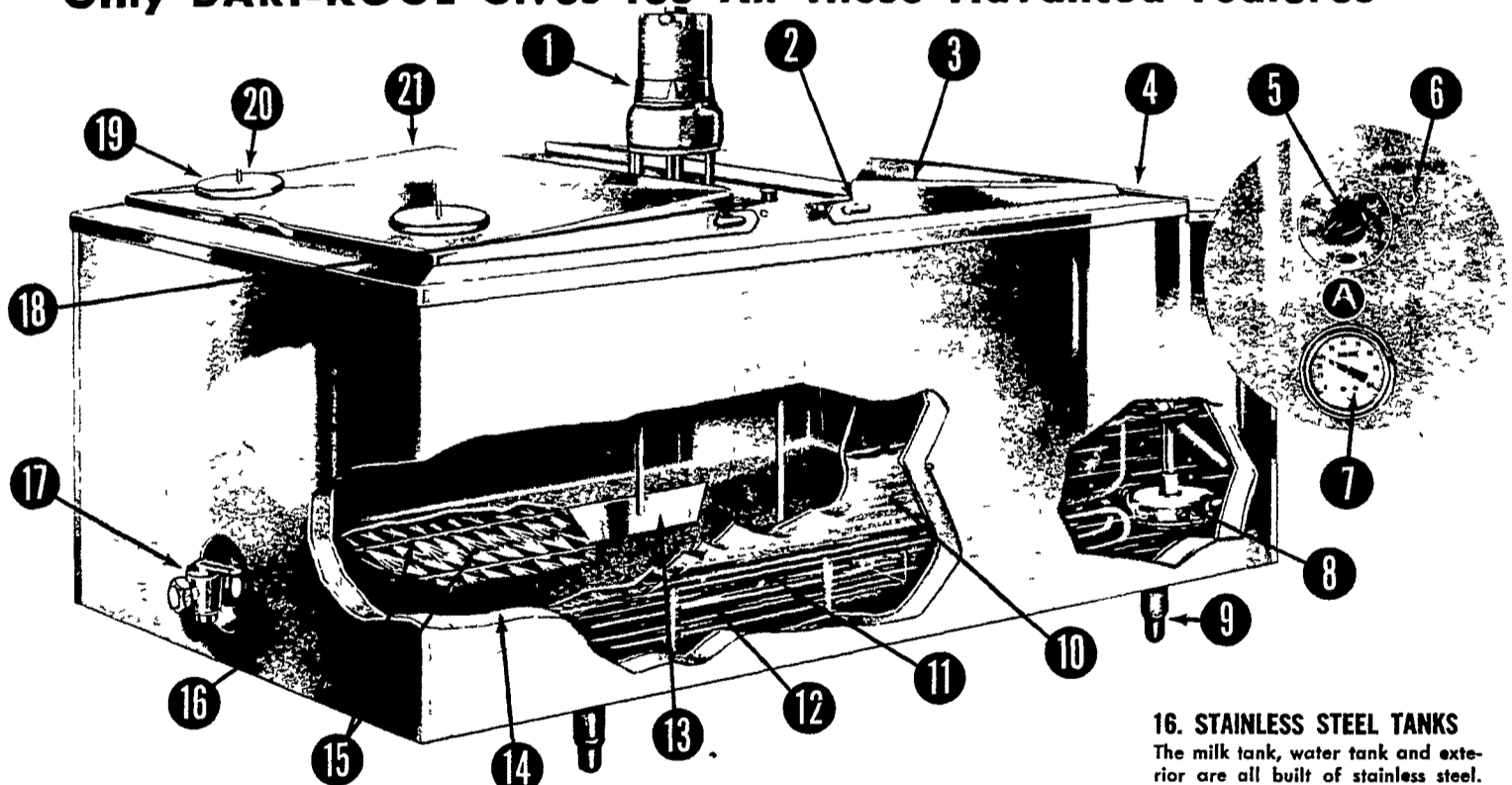
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