

Science seeks

(Continued from Page 1)

disease. One variety is doing pretty well, according to available for commercial

use in two years. A few other varieties "look good" as far as disease resistance is concerned, but are poor in yield. The leaves are quite small.

According to Yocum, etch is more of a problem to Pennsylvania tobacco growers than black shank disease. Spread by aphids initially, the etch problem continues to grow via viruses. The researcher claimed he hasn't seen a single field of tobacco this year which did not have some level of infestation with the virus. Fortunately, he pointed out, the disease does not continue once the crop is hung in the shed.

John Baylor, forage crops specialist from the University, was on hand to discuss alfalfa growing problems with visitors. He noted that anthracnose has

become a significant problem in the state within the past half-dozen years or so and pointed out that it is a disease which is most often found in high humidity, high temperature regions.

Quite a few alfalfa varieties are being tested, with the three showing the most promise for anthracnose tolerance in this area being WL 311, Saranac AR, and Arc. He told visitors that they should expect to keep alfalfa stands for four years.

Aside from the anthracnose problem, Baylor also expressed a good bit of concern for the potato leaf hopper which is devastating quite a few fields. The specialist explained that farmers often do not recognize the problem, since symptoms are similar to those of boron deficiency or

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, August 7, 1976—17

drought. Discolorations in terms of reds and yellows take place and growth is stunted. The leaf hopper is a tiny insect which is blown in

by the wind every year. One good thing, "it's easy to control through chemicals," concluded Baylor.

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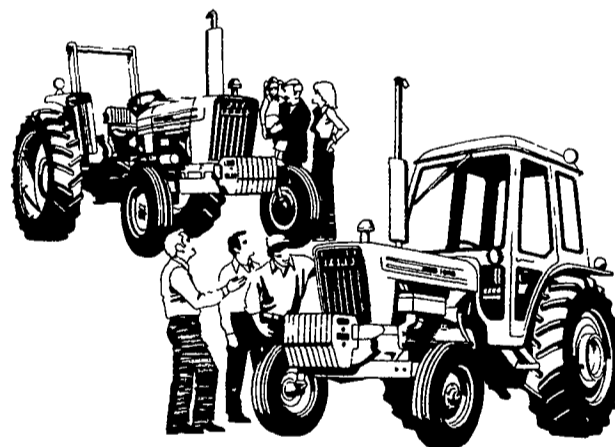
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John Yocum, tobacco researcher and superintendent at Penn State's field research farm near Landisville, points out characteristics of an experimental tobacco plant which shows good resistance to etch virus disease.

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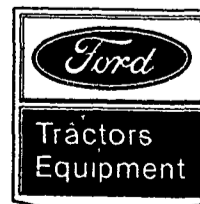
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