

Late winter grain care plans needed

DOVER, Del. - Most of Delaware's small grain crop is up and growing, and a lot of farmers are starting to think about fertility and weed control on their fields. Such planning ahead is especially important if they intend to follow the grain

with no-till soybeans, points out Delaware Extension agricultural specialist Frank Webb.

According to Webb, studies at the University of Delaware's Georgetown Substation have shown that about 60 pounds of nitrogen

per acre is an economic fertility level for both wheat and barley. As for potassium and phosphorus, the specialist advises farmers to follow fertility recommendations for their soils. "You can get the most return for fertilizer dollar spent by soil testing now for fertilizer application in the spring," he says.

If farmers haven't gotten their test results back by the time they fertilize, as a last resort they could put down about 60 to 70 pounds each of both potassium and phosphorus. Whether they do this or follow soil test recommendations, the amount of P and K put down for the grain will also serve for the soybeans that follow.

Fertilizer application is usually made in late January, February, or early March. Any source of nitrogen can be used for this topdressing, except urea. This material should be avoided because it has the potential of volatilizing and being lost into the air as ammonia, when not incorporated. Farmers, if buying a combination fertilizer, should be sure that their dealer understands its

intended use and doesn't give them something that contains urea

Ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, and 30 per cent liquid nitrogen are all suitable nitrogen sources. If other fertilizer levels are high enough, one can just spray on liquid nitrogen alone.

Good weed control is essential if double-cropping with soybeans. Farmers herbicide program should come along in the latter part of March through April, when plants are fully tilled but before they enter the joining stage. Farmers should be sure that the temperature is at least 50 degrees for one day (preferably more) before applying any materials, cautions Webb.

Either 2, 4-D or a combination of 2, 4-D and Banvel should be used, depending on the weed problems. If growing wheat and have a garlic problem but no other serious weed infestations, farmers can use 2, 4-D at a rate of 1-1½ pts. per acre (4 lbs. per gallon strength).

To control annual broadleaf weed like chickweed, henbit, German

Pa. ag bureau checks metric weights

HARRISBURG - State Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer announced that the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Standard Weights and Measures is currently performing the first calibration of metric weights for heavy duty measure. The weights will be used by the Toledo Scale Company for its heavy duty scales throughout the world.

The Toledo Scale Company, world famous for its measuring devices, has begun to convert its scales to the metric system. Federal law has determined that the United States will convert to the metric system within a reasonable period of time. The weights being calibrated by the Bureau of Standard Weights and Measures will be used by the company as

standards in their plant production of heavy duty scale weights.

Shelhamer said that he is pleased to be able to help the Toledo Scale Company

"This is the first time an out of state company has come to the bureau for this kind of service. And to our knowledge, this is the first time ever that heavy duty weights are being calibrated in metric."

Usually, work of this nature is handled by the state offices within the individual company's home state or by the National Bureau of Standards. "We are proud that the Toledo Scale Company feels that they can rely on us for an accurate measurement in calibrating their weights," Shelhamer said. "We are well equipped to handle this type of work."

moss, corn cockle and dog fennel as well, farmers can use a combination of ¾ pt. 2, 4-D plus ¼ pt. Banvel (4 lbs. per gallon strength).

Delaware farmers have plan'd about 30,000 acres of wheat and 25,000 acres of barley this year - an investment well worth protecting with proper fertilizer and weed control.

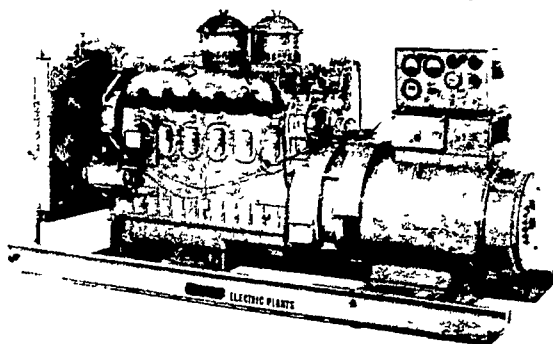
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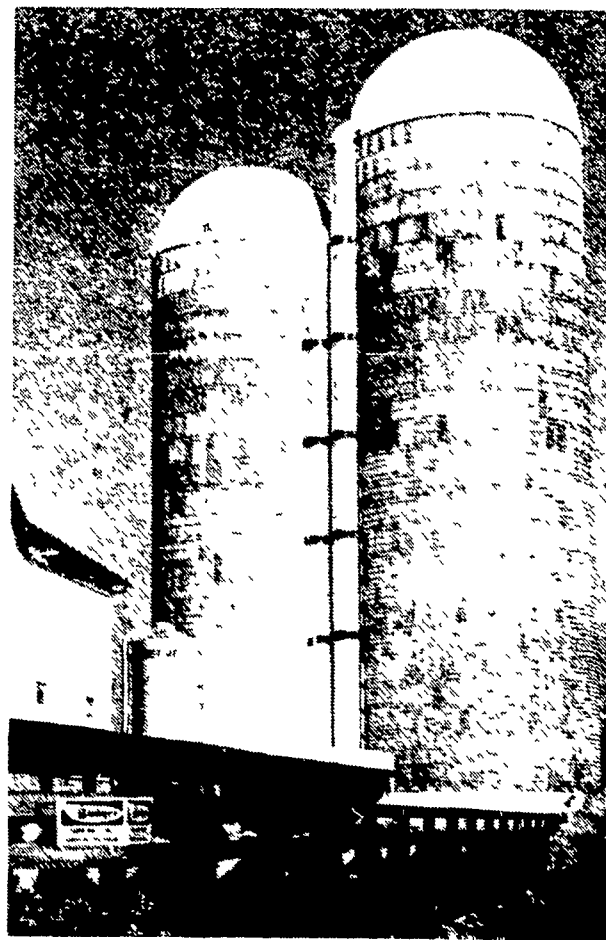
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