

'Blueboy' wheat makes comeback

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — A wheat variety snubbed by farmers and science five years ago has made an abrupt about-face, turning in an unheard-of harvest of more than 100 bushels per acre, according to research scientists for the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station.

Agronomists at MAES's Poplar Hill Research Farm near Salisbury, Md. say they have recorded experimental harvests of up to 104.6 bushels per acre of "Blueboy", a common wheat variety that normally produces 70 bushels per acre. The average wheat yield per acre in Maryland last year was 38 bushels.

"Blueboy" was shunned and

finally removed from MAES's list of "recommended" wheat varieties for Maryland farmers five years ago when researchers admitted they could not cope with its extreme susceptibility to the fungus powdery mildew.

"We know 'Blueboy' had a yield potential of at least 90 bushels if," says research farm manager Ron Mulford, "you could keep it disease-free."

That is until this year. Now MAES researchers have taken a tip from across the Atlantic where farmers in Great Britain have reported wheat yields of anywhere from 100 to 150 bushels per acre.

Their secret? They've been

using a new type of fungicide called "Baylaton" that has been cleared by the U.S. government for commercial use in two Midwest states.

MAES researchers, however, took the British method a few steps further to accomplish their harvest feat.

They coupled "Baylaton" with another, more readily available fungicide — "Difolitan" — and increased total nitrogen application by more than three times its normal rate. Surprisingly, they also used a growth regulator — to stunt growth — part way through the wheat's maturing process to prevent a phenomenon called "lodging", where the plant

becomes so top-heavy it falls over to the ground.

"The results were plainly evident," says Mulford, who points out that, even without all the increased nitrogen fertilizer, simply keeping the plants fungus-free increased the harvest as much as 20 bushels per acre over normal figures reported for "Blueboy."

Now Maryland researchers and those in other East Coast states

say they will apply for federal permission to use "Baylaton" as it is employed in Illinois and Iowa.

Meanwhile, a team of MAES researchers with individual expertise in small grains, fungus treatment and fertilizer fixation will expand their new-found knowledge in the coming year to include another Maryland crop — soybeans — where they hope to find another harvest success.

Agent explains land rights

Second in a series of 4 articles
HONESDALE — Land ownership constitutes many rights according to Joe Macialek, Community Development Agent. Some of these rights can be sold or given to another party such as the granting of a right of way for a utility line to cross a property.

Other rights commonly separated from land ownership are oil, gas and mineral rights, these rights may be separated permanently through a deed or temporarily through a lease. The granting of these rights to another party may have some effect on the value of the property, and may limit some uses of the land due to location of drill sites and pipe lines. However, Macialek stated the oil and gas lease does not constitute a lien upon the property.

When an oil and gas lease is


signed, a bonus payment is made to cover the first year of the lease. This payment is commonly made with a time delay draft. This means that the check or draft will not be honored until the delay date of the draft.

The purpose of this delay Macialek said, is to allow the lessee enough time to conduct a title search and to determine if the owner of the land surface is also the owner of the oil and gas rights.

A common practice in assembling oil and gas leases is the hiring of an agent or third party to purchase the leases. Independent leasing companies also purchase leases with the intention of selling them at a later date.

Therefore, Macialek explained, leases are generally assignable. That is, they can be sold or transferred like most other property.

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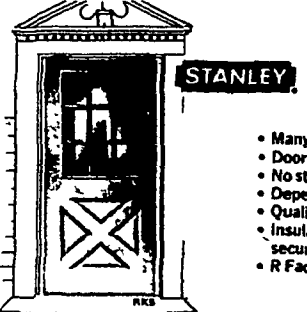
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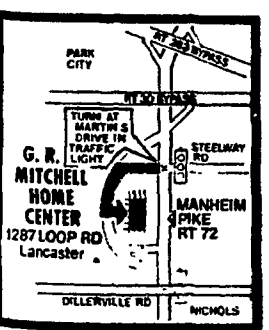
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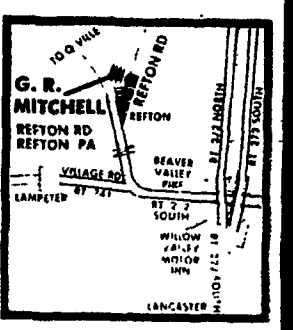
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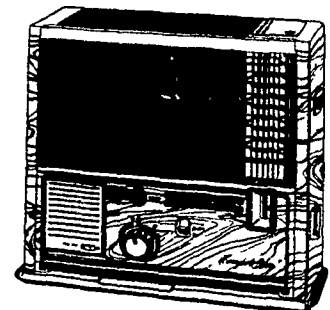
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