

# Farm Tips For Spring

## BY EDWARD J. WOODS Washington County Agricultural Agent Vegetables Need Lots Of Sun

Vegetables don't like being planted near trees, so if at all possible locate your vegetable garden away from trees.

Tree feeder roots which compete for plant food and soil moisture with vegetable roots and shade are reasons why vegetables grow poorly near trees.

The spreading roots from a tree may extend for a considerable distance from its trunk. The tree feeder roots and vegetable roots then compete for water and soil nutrients. The result can be stunted, unproductive vegetables.

Before planting a vegetable garden, see if any tree roots extend into the area. Dig holes 6 to 12 inches deep where you expect to plant the vegetables, and look for roots.

Also remember that as trees grow, their roots spread farther. So a garden that was productive when the trees were small may eventually perform poorly as tree roots reach the garden area.

Even through no roots reach your garden, don't expect vegetables to do well if they're shaded by trees. Full sunlight for at least three-quarters of a day is a must for best growth and yields of vegetables.

Shallow-rooted vegetables such as onions, chives and lettuce may do better than other vegetables in the competition with trees that send out roots that are deep in the soil.

### Understand Persistent Weed Problems

Just how persistent do we have to be in order to control weed

problems? Well, the answer to this question comes from weed scientists who ran germination tests on weed seeds.

They report that 29% of Johnsongrass seed germinated after being buried for three years; morning glory 74% after five years; pigweed 66% after 40 years and dock 52% after being buried 50 years. They further reported that 51 of 107 species tested still had live seeds after 20 years.

The reason these seeds remain in the soil for such a long period without sprouting is apparently related to environmental conditions. According to weed experts, some seeds need just the right combination of moisture, temperature, and nutrients before they will germinate. This explains why we may suddenly be faced with a weed problem we thought was cured several years ago.

### To Give Old Pastures A Boost

Are your pastures worn-out and weedy? Are you thinking about reseeding them?

This could be costly and time consuming. And, if done at this time of the year, there is a greater risk of soil erosion and seeding failure. The best time to seed grasses is in early September.

A cheaper and better alternative might be to lime, fertilize and clip your pastures this spring to build up soil fertility, to reduce weed competition and to encourage the grasses that are already present. With the use of some herbicides you may discover that your pasture is better than you thought, and reseeding may not be necessary.

Remember, you can always till additional grasses and legumes into the pastures if desired.

### To Consider Footbaths

The use of footbaths can help prevent the spread of foot rot organisms, but it may not help cows that are already infected.

Footbaths can also help toughen up soft hooves. Hooves can become soft when cows are

housed in wet-floored, free stall barns or on bedded packs, or when they have been exposed to muddy lots and wet pastures.

Footbaths can be located in exits from cow stables or milking parlors. A footbath solution can be made by mixing 1 pound of cop-

per sulfate in 5 gallon of water. Another alternative is to mix 4-6 ounces of Formalin in 1 gallon of water. A dry footbath preparation can also be made by mixing 5 pounds of copper sulfate powder -- not crystals -- with 100 pounds of hydrated lime.

## Meeting Examines Tracheal Mite

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — A Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Beekeeping Workshop will be held Saturday, June 9, 1990, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Grace Episcopal Church.


Speakers at the workshop will include Mary Ann Tomasko, entomologist, Penn State University and James Steinhower, chief bee inspector, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Registration will be from 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

The main topic of discussion will be the infestation of bee colonies with tracheal mite. Local beekeepers experienced heavy losses of bees over the winter and the problem is blamed on the presence of tracheal mite. Information will be presented on the life history of the tracheal mite, identification of

the problem, and means of control.

The workshop is being sponsored by the Wayne County Beekeepers and the Wayne County Cooperative Extension and all

interested persons in the region are invited. There is a registration fee of \$2.00 and pre-registration is requested by calling the Wayne County Cooperative Extension, Courthouse, Honesdale.



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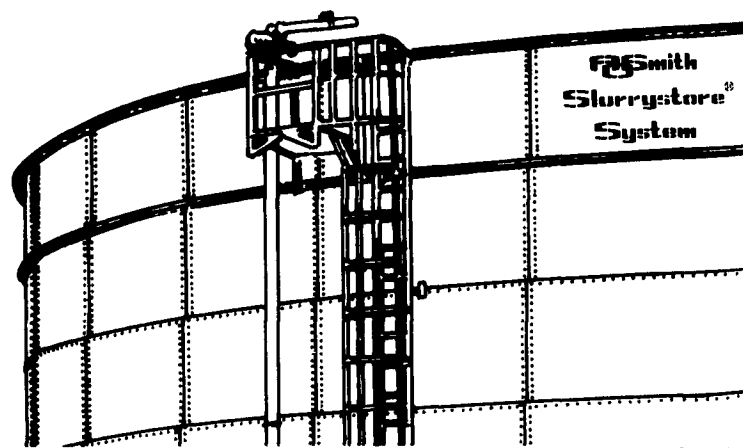
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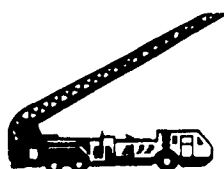
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