

# Farm Agent's Report

By R. W. Lippincott

Mercer County Agricultural Agent

Among community projects sponsored by Hamilton Square Grange 79 was that of distributing hundreds of azaleas last Spring. That community should be the azalea center by next Spring if the plants are kept in a healthy condition.

Plants of this group require certain cultural practices for best results. Azaleas require an acid soil. Poor growth, yellowish foliage, and dying branches follow if the soil is not sufficiently acid. Also, azaleas resent a widely fluctuating soil moisture, but must have a reasonable amount of moisture about their roots at all times because of their shallow rooting habits.

On this account, it is highly desirable that plants be mulched at all periods of the year. To help acidify the soil and to help hold moisture, mulches of peat moss, oak leaves or acid leaf molds maintain a cool, moist acid condition about the feeding roots.

Cultivation of the soil around the plants should never take place, since many of the rootlets will be injured by such practices.

The insects most commonly attacking azalea plantings around the home are lace bugs and the chewing beetles such as Asiatic and Japanese beetles. Lace bugs feed on the underside of the leaves causing the leaves to have a mottled, grayish appearance. A spray of nicotine sulphate and soap applied in early June or whenever else these insects are working will be effective. Chewing insects may be controlled with an arsenate of lead spray.

Tomato Anthracnose  
Tomato anthracnose has been reported on tomato fields in South Jersey. Anthracnose is one of the important diseases attacking the fruit of ripe tomatoes and unless it is checked by spraying or dusting many fruits may be expected to be attacked by this disease.

Its appearance on the fruit may be one or many circular spots ranging from one-eighth to one inch in diameter on the ripe fruit. It is not easy to see on green fruit and when it is observed it is too late to remedy by dusts or sprays.

To control both anthracnose and tomato late blight the first application should begin 30 days after the first cluster is in bloom, or about 6 weeks after planting time. Spray with either Zerlate or Karbam White, using 2 pounds of the material to 100 gallons of water, plus 4 pounds of calcium or lead arsenate to control chewing insects, or dust with a 10 percent Zerlate or Karbam White mixed with 20 percent of calcium or lead arsenate.

The second spray, which is primarily for late blight and Septoria leaf spot, should follow in from 7 to 10 days, using an insoluble or fixed copper as recommended. The third spray should be the same as the first one, and the fourth the same as the second. A tomato insect and disease control chart explains spraying and dusting, and

## Canhouse Tomato Acreage Lower In State This Year

New Jersey's crop of tomatoes for processing will be sharply reduced this year, according to John W. Carnross, agricultural economist of Rutgers University. He bases this statement on preliminary estimates of crop acreage and condition issued by the Crop Reporting Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The acreage planted in New Jersey is nearly one-fifth less than last year Carnross says. It's 26 percent below the long-time average plantings. The total acreage of tomatoes for processing planted in the nation is down 17 percent from last year. California, the nation's largest producer of processing tomatoes, cut its acreage one-third.

New Jersey farmers' gross income from their tomato crop will be cut drastically from last year. While no estimates of this year's yield of tomatoes has been made, condition reports on July 1 were less favorable than average.

Carnross estimates that with the reduced acreage in New Jersey and average yields, a crop of 150,000 to 160,000 tons may be harvested. Last year's crop was 292,000 tons, the largest on record.

Contract prices to growers were reduced somewhat this year compared to last year. Open market prices will likely be higher than the extremely low prices of 1947. Probable crop and prices may

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## Feeding Prepares Trees For Drought

Dry weather can be as deadly a menace to shade trees as to valuable farm crops. In past years, severe summer droughts have caused the decline or even death of thousands of trees.

Field experiments conducted by the Davey Tree Expert Company over a three-year period proved that much of this arboreal damage could have been found that annual feeding not only invigorates trees but helps them withstand the rigors of extreme drought conditions.

According to F. R. Lancaster, technical research adviser, fertilizing reduces a tree's water requirements. This is due in part to stimulate root growth. Longer, healthier and more dense root systems are more efficient absorbing agents in a dry soil than the less extensive and less branched root systems of unfertilized trees.

In the Davey experiments, fertilized trees outgrew unfed ones. Even through blistering droughts in two of the years, they held their luxuriant green foliage. At no time was there any indication of impaired health or thwarted growing vigor. Yet during the same period, many trees fell victim to soaring temperatures and rainless cycles.

Feeding reduces a tree's water requirements, a definite aid in bulwarking trees against critical droughts. However, it doesn't mislead into assuming that watering does not help a tree during a dry spell.

The Davey experiments thoroughly debunked an old theory that faster-growing "fed" trees suffer more than unfed ones in arid years.

## Annual Excursion Tickets Available

Plans have been completed for the annual excursion, sponsored by the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture, to Rye, N. Y. on Tuesday, August 3.

Last year, 920 farmers and their families and guests attended the excursion. This year, the committee in charge is limiting the ticket sale to 1,500 persons.

Tickets may be secured from agents at Central Railroad stations at Hampton, Glen Gardner, High Bridge, Annandale, Lebanon and Whitehouse Flemington and Neshanic.

## Suspect Fungus Infects Maples

Rutgers University scientists have named a suspect in their search for the cause of trouble this Summer in sugar maple trees, especially in North Jersey.

After viewing dead branches on countless sugar maples, the experts from the College of Agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station pointed a finger at a fungus called Steganosporium. This fungus long has been found in small dead maple twigs, but it never had been considered the cause of their death.

Raymond P. Korbobo, and Dr. Spencer Davis of the college staff, who toured North Jersey counties with county agents, viewing the damage, emphasized that Steganosporium is only suspected. Further studies are being made. Some affected trees look as if they had been scorched.

## National Farm Safety Week Challenge to Curb Accidents

Miss Florence Walker, Hunterdon County home agent says that National Farm Safety Week, which opened yesterday, should be a challenge to us all, to do what we can to prevent accidents occurring in our homes and on the farm.

The first impulse to pour water when fire breaks out in the home is not always the wisest move, according to rural electrification specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## Ocean County Cattle Free of Tuberculosis

Dairy herds of Ocean County were found to be 10 percent free of bovine tuberculosis in the annual testing just completed, according to Dr. James W. Crouse, of the State Department of Agriculture. The Ocean County herds thus surpassed the health record of 99.5 percent freedom from the disease necessary for accreditation status.

## Midget Orchards

Most orchardists keep trees as low as possible to make picking and spraying easier, says Farm Journal.

But Carl Brader, Washington grower, goes even further—his trees have practically no trunks at all. When he plants a peach or pear tree, he cuts it off, heading it back so that the three to five leaders saved are about 18 inches from the ground.

## Voorhees Tells Farm Group About Paris Food Conference

Herbert W. Voorhees of near Hopewell gave a gloomy, first hand account of the European situation Saturday night at the annual picnic of the Mercer County Board of Agriculture.

He punched home his plea for European aid with dozens of colored slides taken in his trip to the Paris food conference in May. President of the New Jersey Farm Bureau and a director of the American Farm Bureau Federation, he represented the latter group at the conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers.

Voorhees went on to Berlin as the guest of General Lucius Clay. He gained the impression General Clay was the man to outbluff Stalin or outfight him if necessary.

## Honey Producers Say Market 'Shot'

Producers of honey throughout the country are complaining that the market for their product is "shot to pieces." Down in Texas, where the honey flow starts earlier than in most sections of the United States, honey has been selling for as little as eight cents per pound.

The national carryover of honey at the start of the present season was about 42,000,000 pounds, approximately six times the figure for the previous year.

In an effort to stabilize the market and to save the producer from heavy losses, the Commodity Credit Corporation has offered to buy 12,000,000 pounds of the carryover for the school lunch program.

## Wirtz Leghorns Top County Test

The Leghorn entry of Wirtz Brothers of Lebanon is at the top of the list in the Hunterdon County egg laying contest at the end of the first nine months in the present contest year.

This entry has a score for the period of 2,632 eggs and 2,972.85 points. The entry also showed up well for the month of June by standing in second place for the month's production with a score of 330 eggs and 357.15 points.

The leading entry for June is a Leghorn entry by Forsgate Farms of Jamesburg with 348 eggs and 370.4 points. Highest producing herd in the contest is a Rhode Island Red in the entry of Thomas Mettler of East Millstone which stood at July 1 with a score of 244 eggs and 265.4 points for the nine months.

A Wirtz Leghorn came in sixth for individual bird scores for the contest year to date. Three birds tied for top place for June production. Two are Leghorns in the Forsgate Farm entries and the third is a Leghorn in the Rogove's Farm of Lakewood. Each bird produced 30 eggs with a score of 33 points.

Average production for the first nine months is 178.99 eggs by the end of June. This is at the rate of 65.32 percent production based on the number of birds placed in the contest at the beginning of the contest year last October. Average egg weight had been 24.4 ounces and average mortality 8.99 percent.

## Control Late Blight

Reports of late blight on both tomatoes and potatoes have been received by pathologists at Pennsylvania State College. They recommend use of copper sprays or dusts to control the disease. Excessive rainfall and cool nights are favorable to the spread of blight.

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## Leaders Issued Invitation to Fair

The joint committee in charge of Farmers' Day at the Flemington Fair is issuing invitations to a leaders' organization throughout the State for the special day, Wednesday, September 1.

The day is being sponsored by the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture, the granges of the county and the Flemington Auction Market.

Among the special attractions of the day will be a few items new this year, and include: Parade of new farm equipment by cooperating dealers of the county; seeing-eye dog demonstration; and demonstrations on fire control, wood harvesting, bale loading and 2, 4-D spraying.

These also will be demonstrations of a g.g. washing, Newcastle vaccination, chair caning and "saving steps in housekeeping."

Throughout the day, 4-H dairy judging and the horseshoe pitching contest will take place. The better milking contest will be held each day during the Fair and a bee handling demonstration each evening.

The Farmers' Day program also will conclude with a square dance contest.

## Achievement Day Set For 4-H Clubs

The annual Burlington County 4-H Achievement Day will be held Tuesday, August 10, at the Frank Wolf farm, Lumberton.

On exhibit will be clothing, foods, poultry, livestock and garden crops.

Franklin Wainwright Jr. of Florence has taken the lead in competition for a place on the county 4-H judging team which will compete in the State 4-H judging contest Wednesday and Thursday. His score is 972.

## Pickers Are Available For Tomatoes, Fruits

The New Jersey State Employment Service makes known that tomato and fruit pickers may be secured for farmers if notified in advance at the Flemington office. The service also points out that it is not necessary to have housing and board facilities since it is very likely transportation can be arranged.

It is necessary, however, to notify the Employment Service at Flemington well in advance of the need for this help so that it can be lined up.

## Association to Close While Staff Vacations

No business conducted by the Flemington Artificial Breeding Association from August 1 to August 15. The staff of the Association will be on vacation during that period.

Heretofore, the technicians have taken their vacations individually during the Summer. The plan to close up for a two-week period is one which is being followed by other artificial breeding associations throughout the country.

## Visit to Rutgers By Freeholders

About 100 members of New Jersey's county boards of freeholders are planning to attend an open house at the College of Agriculture tomorrow afternoon, according to Lindley G. Cook, associate director of Extension, who is in charge of the event.

The freeholders will meet at 2:30 in the Agricultural Engineering Auditorium for a short program which will feature the work of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Among the topics slated for presentation are the development of a vaccine for Newcastle Disease of poultry, the stream pollution problem, the tick menace, methods of marketing fruits and vegetables, the new look in lawns, and soil testing.

Six 4-H club girls from Middlesex, Mercer and Hunterdon Counties will stage a dress revue for the freeholders, modeling garments which they have made in their project work.

The program will conclude with a dinner at the University Commons.

## Three Bridges Cows End Production Tests

Two registered Holstein-Friesian cows in the dairy herd owned by Howard N. Case, of Three Bridges have recently completed official production tests in Herd Improvement Registry Test. The Holstein-Friesian Association of America announces.

The higher producer of the two was "Ideal Ina Snow White" with a total of 576 pounds of butterfat and 13,777 pounds of milk. The test was made in 347 days on two milkings daily and at the age of three years and six months.

The other high producer was "Ideal Poynette Excellence" who, at the age three years and six months, made 552 pounds of butterfat and 15,778 pounds of milk in 365 days on two milkings daily.

YOUR GARDEN This Week

By Charles H. Connors

Mid-Summer planting in the garden is now finished, except for spinach and late lettuce and beets. You can plant these about once a week up to the first of August. The venturesome soul can still plant late celery. However, this is not an easy crop to mature.

Late crop weeds are still troublesome, so shallow cultivation with a hoe or some other implement is necessary to keep them down. Why not mulch? After the garden soil is clean, a mulch applied will save hoeing in the hot Summer weather—unless you need the exercise.

Be on the lookout for tomato (tobacco) hornworm. Of course, the potato beetle will eat the leaves, but this insect is easily seen while the hornworm may be easily overlooked until it reaches large size. A spray or dust of calcium arsenate or rotenone will scotch both.

After pole beans have started to set fruit, it is important to maintain the nitrogen supply. A booster solution (3 cupfuls of 5-10-5 fertilizer to 12 quarts of water), applied a quart to a pole every two weeks will keep them growing and producing.

Cut back on hybrid tea roses the stems that have bloomed, to two healthy leaves. The buds will soon break to give late bloom.

Keep aphids under control on chrysanthemums and other plants. Neglect may result in crippling the plants.

Seeds of biennials may now be sown, such as Canterbury bells, Foxglove, English daisy. Protect the soil well against drying.

## Paint Barn Inside

Paint is better than whitewash for the inside of the dairy barn. Whitewash is cheaper, but flakes off and the particles shift down. Paint leaves a surface that can be maintained in good condition and refinished.

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