

# You Can Sterilize a Little Bit of Soil

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A frequent question: "How can I sterilize small quantities of soil?" Soil sterilization is important to kill soil-borne disease organisms and nematodes. It is comparatively simple to accomplish and I suggest three methods for use around the home.

The first—Prepare your soil and place in boxes, or containers in which the plants are to grow. Place these in a pre-heated oven at a temperature of 160 degrees F. for 30 minutes.

The second—Use a large container and place the boxes or pots of

soil in a rack with water below the rack. Bring the water to the boiling point and steam the soil for a least one hour.

The third—A chemical method using formalin (formaldehyde). Use one part of formalin to five parts of water. This will be your basic formulation. Add 2½ tablespoons of this solution to each bushel of soil to be treated. Two methods are suggested. Place the soil on a concrete floor, sprinkle the solution over the soil and mix thoroughly with a shovel. Or, place the soil on a piece of heavy canvas and roll it by holding the corners. In either case, place the soil in a tight container for 24 hours. Then

remove the cover and let some of the gas escape. After this is done, turn the soil out of the container and turn several times with a shovel, or on canvas, until the odor of the formalin is completely gone. A large garbage or trash can may be used to advantage.

Watch out for aphids, red spider mites, lace bugs, bean beetles and all the rest. Malathion will control many of the common pests. Harvest sweet corn at the proper stage of maturity for flavor and quality and keep it cool in order to preserve the sugar content. I reminded you last week about preparing for the fall garden, so don't forget to do this. You will be glad you did.

## Prospects Good For Little Damage From Boll Weevil

The cotton boll weevil situation still looks good, according to experts. Last winter's severe freezes apparently greatly reduced the numbers of the pesky insects.

George Jones, in charge of ento-



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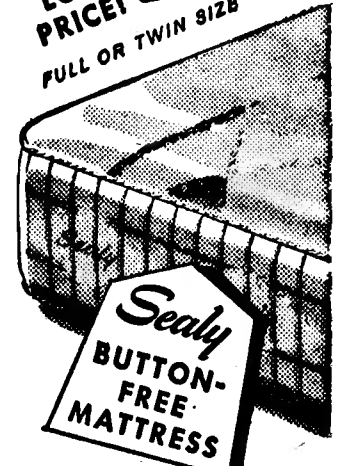
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mology for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service at State college, says that now that plants are forming cotton squares in abundance he is in a better position to evaluate the weevil problem. Here's the pic- (Continued on back page)

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## Note Decline for Poultry Diseases

A sharp drop in the mortality rate of chicks and layers has been cited as one of the biggest contributors to the booming North Carolina poultry industry.

In fact, C. F. Parrish, in charge of poultry for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service says the mortality rate in laying houses has dropped by 40 per cent since 1940.

Parrish, quoting figures released by L. J. Fourie of the N. C. Department of Agriculture, points out that in 1945 only 500,000 birds on North Carolina farms were given blood tests.

By 1957 the number had increased to nearly three million.

There is also a very significant difference in the birds tested in 1945 and 1957, Parrish added. In 1945 and 1957, Parrish added. In of every 10,000 suffering from Pullorum-Typhoid. Now the disease is found in only one bird out of every 10,000.

Parrish attributed much of the progress in eradicating the disease to supply flock owners and hatcherymen, who had adhered to very strict selection and disease control programs.

## Horizontal Silos Becoming Popular on Tar Heel Farms

Mention silo and most people automatically think of an upright cylinder. But, silos of the horizontal type, such as trench and bunker, have become more and more promi-

nent. Lower initial cost and the possibilities of mechanized filling and feeding, or self-feeding of the silage, have been attracting many Tar Heel farmers to the idea of bunker or trench silos.

How good are these newer type silos? Guy S. Pearsons, dairy specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, says that the effectiveness of the various structures in preserving dry matter of grass silage depends to a considerable extent upon the techniques and management of the farmer at time of making silage. He needs to be more careful in making silage in the horizontal type silo because of lack of weight from depth of silage as well as the greater surface area exposed.

These two disadvantages can be partially overcome by packing the silage with a tractor, during the filling process and by covering the surface of the silage with plastic covers held in place with material such as sawdust, Parsons adds.

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