# Secretary Benson Sees Farm Problem as American Plight

The so-called farm problem is trol program" - and that "to farmers want greater freedom and not just a farm problem—it is an achieve and maintain a prosperous, less government interference. American problem.

Agriculture Benson, expressed at lem. a recent Farmer-Businessman dinpoint is one he has often made besolved by continuing the old outmoded price support, acreage con-

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expanding, and free agriculture, That is the view of Secretary of we MUST solve the farm prob-

ner in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. And his cets of the problem—and they add among them—have growing marup to an ominously impressive list. fore—that "this problem cannot be Vast supplies of a few commodi- their ups and downs, of course, ties exert a depressing influence but by and large they have done in the market. Farm people are well. The trouble is caused by the caught in a cost-price squeeze, and one-fifth of our agriculture that is half our farms have a gross income not free-the supported and conof only \$2,500 a year. The cost to trolled so-called basic crops of the taxpayers of maintaining farm corn, wheat, cotton, rice, peanuts programs is at an all-time high, and tobacco. and is still rising. We have \$9 bilof it in corn, wheat and cotton. crisis. By July of 1960, the Secrecharges alone now come to \$1 bil-about 1½ billion bushels—enough lion a year. On top of all this, in to provide 515 loaves of bread for Mr. Benson's words: "Proposals every man, woman and child in the are now being made which, if country. And, at the same time, adopted, would go far to socialize \$3.5 billion of the taxpayers' monagriculture—to make farmers de- ey will be tied up in wheat alone. pend for much of their income on A continuance of this trend, Mr. direct payments from the U.S. Treasury. This threatens not only disaster of a magnitude such as partly decomposed, it has a reverse the freedom of agriculture - it we have not seen before in our threatens the free American economic system in general."

American agriculture.

What, then, is the y

effectively controlled through acreage allotments and marketing quotas." Long, hard and costly expertrue. He also finds, citing a recent nationwide poll made by Farm Journal, the largest agricultural magazine, that eight out of 10

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Moreover, the producers of important agricultural products which are not supported or controlled-The Secretary cites various fa. livestock and fruits and vegetables kets. They have had and will have

The wheat problem seems to lion tied up in the surpluses, most have reached a point of absolute Storage, interest and handling tary says, the carryover will be Benson is convinced, "could end in

What, then, is the way out? As The Secretary finds no merit in Mr. Benson sees it, the need is Bacteria feed on, and thus decomthe premise on which the old price drastic change in the whole idea support program was built — the of the farm programs — not just premise "that production can be changes of detail. To quote him once more: "The evidence of 25 years says that we cannot balance supply and demand by means of this matter, they draw nitrogen ience has proven that simply is not present acreage controls. The economics of the farm problem are simple—we need less government plants may become starved for in farming. We must quit trying to fix prices unrealistically. This is the source of the twin evils of production for government warehouses and government control over farmers. We must emphasize markets, increased efficiency, and competitive selling. We must elimnate government's strangle-hold on agriculture.

'Until this is done, agriculture will be burdened with too much government, too much politics, and too little common sense.'

# GARDEN

By M. E. GARDNER N. C. State College

There are very few garden soils that can't be improved by the addition of organic matter. It aerates the soil—an important factor often over looked—and helps the growth of bacteria and other vital soil micro-organisms.

It must be understood that the use of organic matter is not a substitute for plant food; however, at the same time, neither is plant food a substitute for organic mat-ter. This is a common mistake

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Most forms of organic matter have no nutrient value at all. In coses where some small nutrient value is present, it becomes very slowly available to the plants. If the organic matter is not at least action—starving the plants.

In order to be of use, bacteria must have a supply of nitrogen. pose, organic matter. Some excellent foods for bacteria are straw. fresh sawdust, chopped corncobs or shredded bark. When bacteria are in the process of decomposing from the soil—before the plants have a chance to do so. Thus, the nitrogen.

Commercial fertilizers all contain nitrogen. You can see how important it is to feed plants which are mulched.

For the gardener who must watch his budget, sawdust is a very satisfactory mulch and is fine worked into the soil to provide organic matter. If it is fresh, be sure to add extra nitrogen

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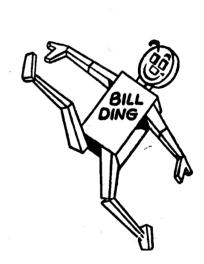
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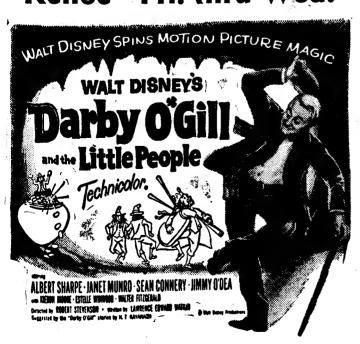
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