

Paint that contains mildewcide helps retard the growth of fungi

One of the minor inconveniences of living in the humid climate of the South is mildew. If you are bothered with this fungus-caused problem on your house, there is a way to cope with it.

Mildew usually occurs because the paint on the siding of the house doesn't have a satisfactory mildewcide, according to Agricultural Extension Service specialists at North Carolina State University.

A mildewcide is a chemical that retards the growth of the fungi.

Mildew is caused by tiny fungi growing on the surface of the siding. These fungi are always present in the air. The most common types are black, but some are red or green. The affected or dirty area may be very localized or it may cover an entire wall.

If left untreated, the discoloration can spread and darken, turning the areas almost black.

Mildew doesn't affect the strength of the siding, even if it does spoil the appearance.

Mildew can occur on a house within the first year after it is built. It is most obvious on light colored paints.

If your mildew problem is caused by a poor paint job, do not paint over the area without first removing the mildew. If you do, the mildew will grow through the new coat of paint and you will be right back where you started.

You must remove the mildew first. Paint and hardware stores sell products for removing mildew from siding, or you can mix your own. Just add one quart of household

bleach to three quarts of warm water.

If you have a severe problem, you can add two-thirds cup of trisodium phosphate and one-third cup household detergent to this mixture.

Next, spray or scrub the solution on the siding. Be careful to avoid splashing shrubbery, grass or yourself. Finally, rinse the siding thoroughly with water.

After cleaning the siding, repaint it as soon as possible with paint containing a mildewcide.



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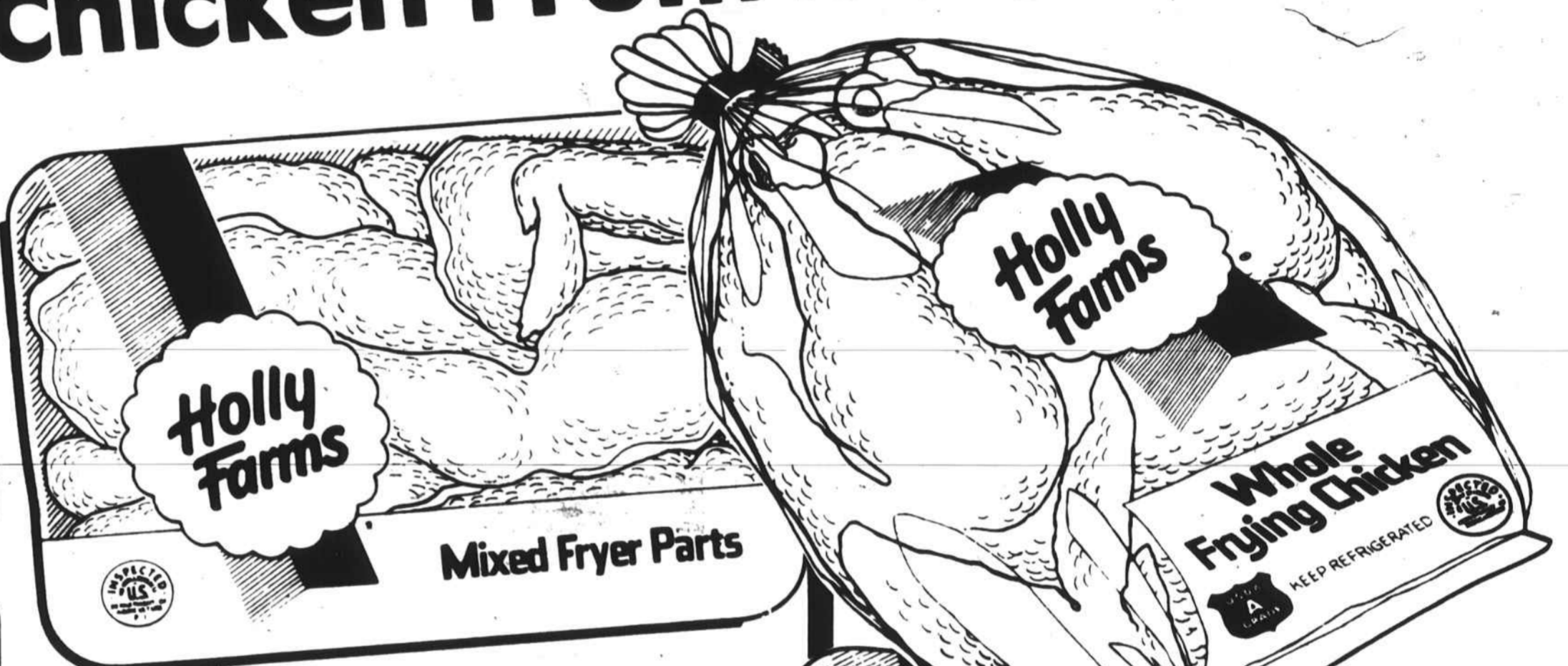
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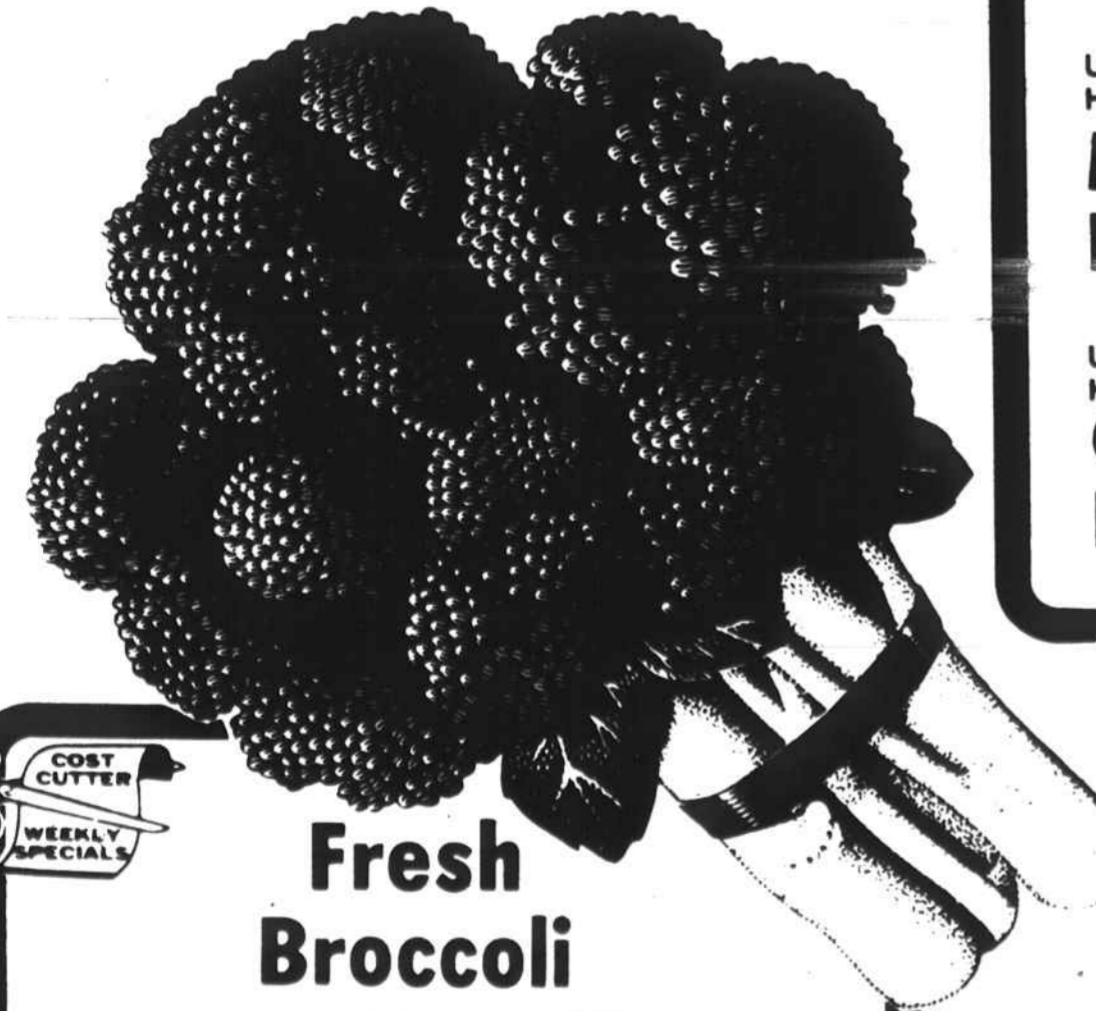
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