

## Now Is The Time To Grow Bluegills By Fertilizing

"To grow bluegills big, raise your pond's fertility quickly, as soon as winter cold begins to wane," say soil and water conservationists.

This is a most significant fact that fish culturists have learned by experience in recent years, according to the local Soil Conservation Service.

Pond fertilization was first begun in America about 1938. Fisheries technicians recommended delay in applying fertilizer "until the spring rains are over." Farmers waited until May or June. Hundreds were disappointed because the bluegills quit growing after the second year. Now it has been proven that even April fertilization is too late to obtain satisfactory bluegill growth.

Bluegills begin to spawn in May or June. Within two or three weeks after the eggs hatch, the thousands of little bluegills are eating all the spare food. Their parents cannot then get food enough to grow even with full water fertility. Yet they continue to spawn all summer and until the first chilly nights in the fall — usually October. During this summer period the production of bass is fine. They are growing rapidly on the thousands of little bluegills which are the chief bass food.

When bluegills stop spawning in the fall, the bass continue to eat hundreds of bluegill fingerlings every day. As the bass reduce the number of fingerling bluegills, the adult bluegills begin to grow — slowly at first, then more rapidly. Growth is slow again during the colder days of winter, as fish feed very little in cold temperatures.

Then when the water begins to warm a little, bluegills are ready to grow larger; but only if the water is fertile enough to grow a lot of microscopic green algae to feed more pounds of worms. A farmer who waits until late spring to renew his pond's fertility can-

not expect big bluegills. The season when they grow most rapidly is only 100 to 120 days, usually February to June.

If run-off water from spring rains is too much for early spring fertilization, the watershed is too big. An owner can divert the water around. In most cases, however, the loss of fertile water is not as serious as was once thought. A fishpond owner in any case may have to lose a little fertilized water to make his bluegills a profitable size.

"To get the first 3 to 5 applications in quickly, fertilize every week or 10 days as you begin the year's program of water culture" are the S.C.S. instructions. "Fertilize until a white object cannot be seen 12 to 14 inches deep."

## Miss Bradley Dies At Otto

Maconian Was 70; Funeral Services Held At Asbury

Miss Elzie Mamie Bradley, 70, a native of Macon County, died February 20 at her home at Otto following an illness of two months. Funeral services were conducted the 21st at the Asbury Methodist Church, of which she was a member. Officiating were the Rev. R. L. Poindexter and the Rev. Glenn Anderson. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Born Sept. 1, 1887, Miss Bradley was the daughter of Andrew Brack and Mrs. Elizabeth Cabe Bradley.

Surviving are seven brothers, Yoel, Glenn, Grady, Ervin, and Herbie Bradley, all of Dillard, Ga., Route 1, and Troy and Joe Brad-

ley, of Otto; four sisters, Mrs. George Dills, of Dillard, Ga., Route 1, Mrs. C. R. Grist, of Dillard, Ga., Route 1, Mrs. Edd Vinson, of Highlands, and Miss Locha Bradley, of Otto; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Nephews serving as pallbearers were Fred Dills, Otis, Bill, Lamar, and Edwin Bradley, and Turner Enloe.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Pedestrian Tip: When walking C sharp or B flat.

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## Maconians Can Enroll In Group Blue Cross Plan

Asheville—Farm people in Macon County and vicinity who have not yet enrolled in the Farmers Federation's Blue Cross group hospitalization program with Hospital Care Association of Durham, now have another opportunity to do so.

The present enrollment will continue through March 15. Persons who enroll during this time will be covered as of March 15.

The president of the Farmers Federation, James McClarke, of Asheville, has issued this statement in connection with the drive: "We hope WNC farm people will take advantage of this opportunity to get Blue Cross at group rates. This means a saving of 15% over what you would have to pay for the same coverage if you bought it individually."

Phil Burch is in charge of the Blue Cross Department of the Farmers Federation.

Until the Farmers Federation program was started in 1953 rural people were enrolled with Hospital Care Association only on a direct individual basis. More than 12,000 rural people in W.N.C. are now enrolled in the Blue Cross program with Hospital Care through the federation. The Blue Cross Plan is fully approved by local hospitals and other hospitals and doctors throughout Western North Carolina. Blue Cross is the only hospital service plan officially approved by hospitals.

All farm families in Macon County and 19 other W.N.C. counties in the Farmers Federation service area are eligible to enroll during this campaign. Age limit at time of enrollment is 65 but subscribers may keep their coverage beyond that age.

The family certificate offered in the current enrollment provides hospital and surgical protection, including maternity coverage.

Anyone who is interested in getting Blue Cross protection is asked to get in touch with one of the following:

A E Frizzell, manager of Farmers Federation in Franklin, Phone 92; or write Phil Burch, Box 851, Asheville.

- House Wiring
- Electric Heat Installations
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