

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

CARLISLE STUDIO

**Keep Trees Green**  
If you have the type of a tree-holder that permits the tree trunk to rest in water, you will find that a small amount of plant food dissolved in the water will aid in retaining the needles on the tree, and keep the needles green. If you use a pebble or rock-filled pail to support the tree, cover the pebbles or rock with a plant food solution.

Use one teaspoonful of plant food, powdered form, to each gallon of water in the container, or use one plant food tablet to each gallon.

About 350 million bushels of 1953 wheat had gone under loan or purchase agreement by mid-October, compared with 312 million bushels in the same period last year.



**GARDEN TIME**  
ROBERT SCHMIDT  
N. C. STATE COLLEGE

During the dormant season we should examine our shrubs and fruit trees closely to see if they are infested with scale insects. If you do not know what scale insects look like, call in your county farm agent or some horticultural friend who is familiar with them. If your trees are infested with scale it is important that you do something about it.

Scale insects are very small sucking insects that attach themselves to the twigs, leaves and branches of shrubs and trees and proceed to suck the life out of them. As soon as they are attached to the twig they construct a tough scale covering over themselves for protection. That is why they are called scale insects. The scales are usually white or gray in color.

In order to kill the insects it is necessary to use spray material that will penetrate the scale covering. Such a spray would be too strong to use during the growing season because it would also damage the plants. Therefore, we must spray for scale insects during the dormant season when the plants are not growing and deciduous trees are free of leaves. The miscible oils, such as Volck and Scalectide, and Lime-Sulphur solutions are effective in controlling scale insects when used according to the manufacturers' directions. Oil sprays should not be used in freezing weather. Because of its fungicidal action especially on peach trees it is preferred to use Lime-Sulphur spray late in the dormant season.

Also at this time of the year we may find a number of spindle shaped cocoons or "bags" hanging on the twigs of our narrow-leaved evergreens. Many of these "bags" contain eggs of the bagworm which will hatch out into caterpillars in early summer. These caterpillars will eat the foliage of the evergreens and will protect themselves by spinning new bags in which they live while they feed. Later in the summer they will change to adults and the females will lay eggs in their cocoons. For control of bagworms all cocoons on the trees or shrubs during the winter season should be picked off and destroyed. During the summer the Caterpillars may be killed with a DDT spray or an arsenical spray.

**Soil Conservation Aids Savings Plan**

Farmers who practice soil and water conservation not only protect and build up their farm resources, but they make more money every year, according to Howard Clapp, Cleveland County farm agent for the State College Extension Service.

Mr. Clapp, citing results of research by the USDA on Illinois farms, says that over a 10-year period net farm earnings of high conservation farms averaged \$6.20 an acre more per year than earnings on low-conservation farms. For a 160-acre farm, this average increase in earnings would amount to approximately \$1,000 a year — or a 15 to 30 per cent annual dividend on capital invested in conservation.

Total conservation costs on the high-conservation farms studied ranged from \$20 to \$30 per acre, usually extending over a period of years. Of this an average of 85 per cent was spent on fertilizer and lime, and the remaining 15 per cent paid for water disposal projects — terraces, waterways, flumes, and other outlets — erosion control plantings and other conservation measures.

These long-term studies of the economics of soil conservation indicate that on many farms investment in soil conservation and fertility improvement will show greater returns over the years than any other use of capital, says the county agent. But if the land has been poorly handled and is badly depleted, several years of a sound program may be required to restore productivity and earning to a satisfactory level. Increases in income were found to vary after adoption of a conservation plan in relation to the condition of the farm when the conservation program was started, the speed at which conservation measures were applied, amounts of fertilizer used, and other influences such as weather and efficiency of management.

a gas when you puncture the can. The cover over the plant bed must be air tight to keep the gas in contact with the soil for 24 to 36 hours. Soil moisture should be about right for planting corn, and for best results, air temperature should be 50 to 60 degrees.

**Methyl Bromide Gas New Weed Killer**

Methyl Bromide, MC-2 gas, is turning out to be a giant killer on thousands of North Carolina farms, according to Howard Clapp, Cleveland County farm agent for the State College Extension Service.

It is the first material yet found to effectively control both weeds and nematodes in tobacco plant beds. The county agent offered a few tips on using the material and reminded farmers that right now is a good time to prepare the plant bed for next year's crop of tobacco.

Briefly, here's how to use Methyl Bromide: Cover the plant bed with a plastic or tough kraft paper cover and apply the fumigant. It's a liquid under pressure in a small can and changes to

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