

Manitou Rapids Indians To Produce Wild Rice

Hon. Wm. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture and Food for Ontario, and Hon. Jean Marchand, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, Government of Canada, today announced the involvement of both levels of government in a project to assist Indians on the Manitou Rapids Reserve in northwestern Ontario's Rainy River District to develop a viable wild rice production unit.

Wild rice is in keen demand as a specialty food, and members of the Manitou Rapids Indian Band have already demonstrated an interest in developing this resource. Their present production facility is limited by unstable water levels. Commercial firms, among them the largest processor of rice in North America, are very enthusiastic about the good color, long grain, and outstanding flavor of the wild rice grown in north-western Ontario.

To secure this market, and open new income opportunities for the members of the Manitou Rapids Indian Band, the ARDA Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food is cooperating with the Manitou Rapids Corporation to expedite the development of a three-phase wild rice production program.

It has already been established that an area of approximately 800 acres, ideally suited for wild rice production, exists on the Manitou Rapids Reserve. Phase one of the program calls for the establishment of a management committee, and obtaining the services of professional consultants who can advise on wild rice cultivation; the development of two 25-acre paddies of cultivated wild rice; the training of staff; and the drafting of a marketing program. The funds for this initial phase

are to be provided by Ontario's ARDA Branch. Phase two of the development plan calls for the establishment of an economic unit of cultivated wild rice, estimated to be 150 acres.

Phase three will provide for the ultimate development of the total available acreage, but this will be done only after Phase two has been completed and is generating sufficient return to warrant further expansion.

The objective of this project is to encourage members of the Manitou Rapids Indian Band to establish a profitable, continuing enterprise that will complement their other forms of income. Authorization of this project is contained in Sections 12 and 32(3) of the Federal-Provincial Rural Development Agreement signed in 1970 by the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada.

Precision Seeding For Uniform Yields

Vegetable growers today are out to produce better quality and more uniform yields per acre than seemed either possible or necessary a few years ago.

Precision seeding is one way for growers to achieve this goal, says Dr. I. L. Nonnecke, Department of Horticultural Science, University of Guelph, who believes that precision seeding has a great potential that has not yet been exploited.

Precision seeding means that specialized machinery can plant seeds exactly where they should be, either singly or in groups, and, under ideal conditions, can mean that seeding can be done to full stand. "Full stand" denotes that every seed planted is expected to grow to full maturity without thinning or elimination. "Double stand" means that a grower will seed twice as much as he expects to bring to maturity and then thin the stand to obtain the most efficient spacing of plants.

There are obvious advantages to precision seeding, says Dr. Nonnecke. It eliminates the need for labor to thin the emerging crop, helps to place the seed where the mature plant will develop best, and greatly improves the uniformity of crop growth.

In Ontario, some tomato trials are being precision seeded. This eliminates transplanting and means that one to one and one half pounds of seed, for example, will produce large yield increases per acre.

Other trials have shown that cauliflower can be precision seeded without thinning, with good yield results. Precision seeding of two or three ounces of lettuce seed per acre has yielded 50 percent higher than ordinary seeding at one and one half pounds.

Precision seeding for rutabagas, says Dr. Nonnecke, is widely used in Ontario. At present the crop is being planted to double stand, and could go to full stand in the near future. Turnip growers are using two or three ounces of

turnip seed to produce much as two or three pounds of seed did previously.

Precision seeders use specially made holes that allow seeds to drop at regular intervals. Other seeds do not fit the holes and must be coated and reshaped. This coating serves to protect the seeds through germination and emergence. The coating materials have various binding substances which split open or dissolve readily in the soil. Turnip seeds have to be specially sized because of variance in seed size. Uniform seed sizing ensures a highly uniform crop.

Evidence from tests to date shows that precision seeding, coupled with an efficient weed control program, will herald a new era of high yielding uniform crops that will have to be harvested once. That this will occur, says Dr. Nonnecke, is dictated by the economics of production. Only by eliminating costly labor for thinning and harvesting can the vegetable producer successfully remain in the marketplace.



Picking apples on the Cline Fruit Farm, Port Rowan. (Staff Photo)

Ontario's Seasonal Employment Program

TORONTO - Two projects employing 1,700 men, launching the Government of Ontario's Seasonal Employment Program, were started in January.

Nine hundred men will be employed in the removal of diseased elm trees near provincial highways during the next two-and-a-half months.

In the \$1 million program, administered by the Department of Highways, diseased elm trees within one-quarter of a

mile of Highways 400 and 401 will be removed.

The second project, being undertaken by the Department of Lands and Forests, will employ 800 men in capital improvements to provincial parks throughout Ontario. A total of 150 small projects will be included in the parks program at a cost of about \$1 million.

These projects are being developed by the Government of Ontario to ease the unemployment situation in this province.

Other projects under the Ontario Seasonal Employment Program are also being developed and will be announced in the immediate future.

In addition, he said the Government of Ontario is proceeding with the development of programs so that Ontario residents may benefit from the fund established by the federal government to make available low-interest loans for employment-stimulating

capital projects. These will also be announced in the near future.

A pilot project of the tree removal program began on January 4 to determine its feasibility. In the two test areas approximately 3,000 trees were felled and cleared away during the first week.

The elm tree project will operate through the district offices of the Department of Highways in Chatham, London, Hamilton, Owen Sound, Toronto, Port Hope, Kingston and Ottawa. Permission of property owners is required for the removal of diseased trees.

Referrals to all projects under the Ontario Seasonal Employment Program are being made by local social assistance offices and Canada Manpower Centres in the areas where the projects operate. Placement is being coordinated by the Ontario Department of Labour.

Bacterial Leaf Spot Affects Cauliflower

Ontario's cauliflower producers face difficulties with a leaf spot disease which has seriously affected the quality of a substantial number of these vegetables grown in Ontario. Quantities of diseased cauliflowers have been downgraded while others have become unmarketable, says Dr. John Sutton, Botany Department, University of Guelph.

Bacterial leaf spot is recognizable by numerous irregular light brown areas between the leaf veins which first appear during July. The brown areas, usually with dark brown margins, become papery and may shatter, giving the leaf a ragged appearance.

The disease first appears on the outer leaves, which are also more extensively affected than inner leaves. The earliest signs of disease are minute brown spots scattered across the leaf, each with a narrow yellow halo.

Bacterial leaf spot is caused by microscopic rod-shaped bacteria (probably *Pseudomonas maculicola*). The bacteria are splashed from one leaf to another by spattering rain or overhead irrigation water. Once they enter the leaf, they multiply by the millions and destroy the spotted areas.

Two main sources of the disease bacteria are infected seed and overwintered debris of diseased cauliflower from the two previous seasons.

To help control the disease, sow seed which has been properly treated with hot water. Locate the seed bed where no cauliflowers, cabbages, broccoli or Brussels sprouts have been grown during the

past three seasons. Alternatively, the seedbed soil should be steamed or fumigated.

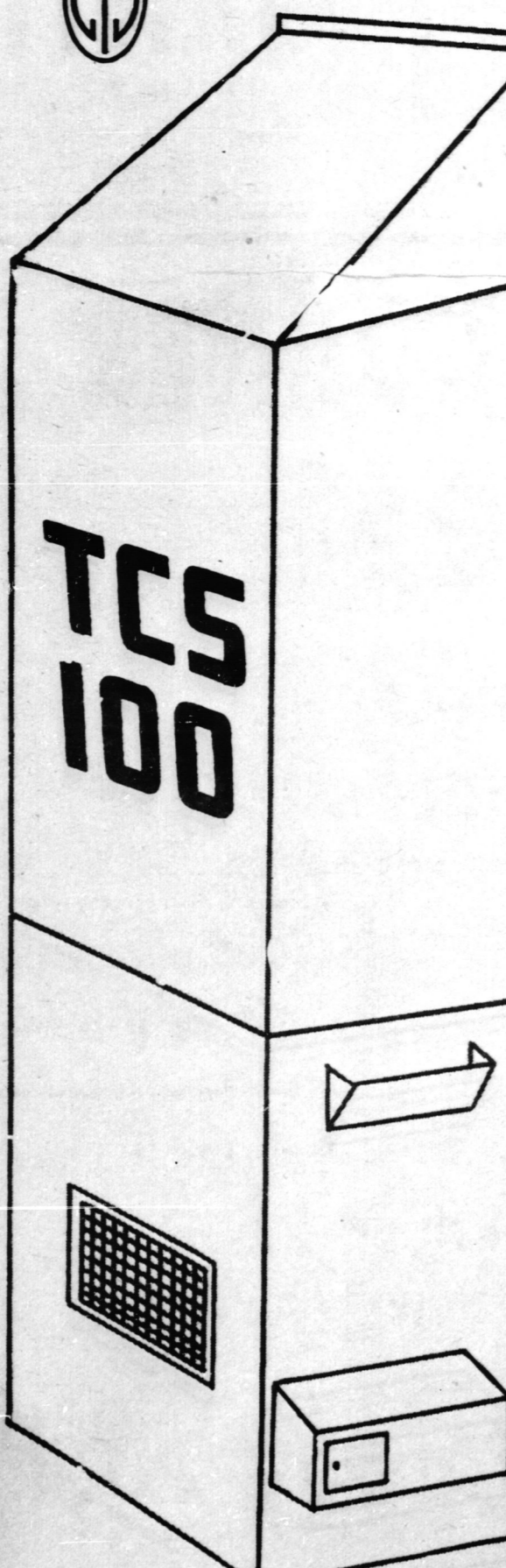
Crop rotation should be practiced. The cauliflowers should be transplanted to land where no cauliflowers or other closely related vegetables have been grown for at least two years. Leaf spot bacteria may survive two and possible three Ontario winters on cauliflower debris. Although bacterial leaf spot is not serious with other cauliflower-related vegetables, such crops help to maintain the disease.

Where crop rotation is not feasible, another alternative is to plow or disk under all cauliflower debris. Incorporation of infested debris into soil helps to destroy the bacteria and reduces the possibility of disease in the next crop. Heavy debris may be gathered and removed where practical, and where good plowing coverage is not possible.

Two possibilities for the future, says Dr. Sutton, are disease-tolerant or resistant cauliflower varieties, or perhaps effective bactericidal chemicals.

GOLDEN PORK CHOPS

Golden Pork Chops - Select 4 or 5 loin, rib, shoulder or butt pork chops that are about 1-inch thick. Brown nicely in a heavy skillet; season with salt and pepper. Add 1/2 cup orange, pineapple or apple juice and 2 tablespoons each of brown sugar and finely chopped onion. Cover and simmer over low heat for 45 to 55 minutes or until tender and glazed, turning occasionally.



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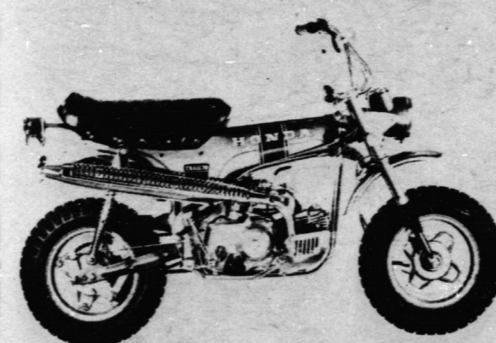
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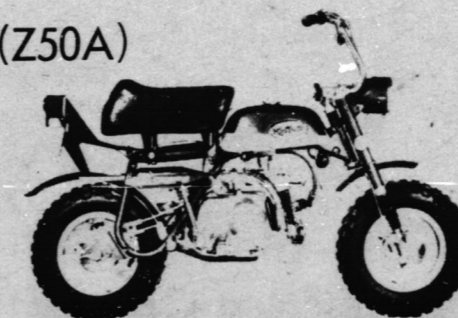
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