

Leaf Blight Problems Less Concern In '71

By Karl Bereza
Southern Leaf Blight was not of the same concern in 1971 that it was in 1970. The main reason was the absence early in the growing season of the relative high humidity and temperature necessary for the development of the disease.

These climatic conditions did not occur until late August in the form of heavy evening dews and some hot day time temperatures. As a consequence the disease was not noticeable to any great extent until September but it was province-wide with

a fairly high degree of incidence.

Happily, plant maturity was well advanced and overall yield losses were negligible.

After one year of experience with southern leaf blight three sources of disease infection in Ontario were deter-

mined. The casual fungus may be present on the seed.

As such the disease can grow in the seedling if the plant is not killed before emergence. Seed corn is treated with a fungicide prior to sale and researchers have found Thiram quite effective.

It is also now known the pathogen causing the disease will survive our winters on corn residue that has been sheltered. The surviving disease spores will develop under moist spring conditions, but experiments have shown that the disease trends to exhaust itself before the appearance of the new corn seedlings which are their source of food.

Nevertheless, there appears to be sufficient spore survival, especially under dry spring conditions to inoculate the young corn plant. Clean plow under of crop residue is therefore recommended.

The third source of infection were corn cribs or elevators. Spore showers resulting from shelling operations caused infection in nearby corn fields. Such fields were the most heavily blighted in 1971. Shelling should be curtailed at susceptible times or corn should not be grown near these sources.

What can be expected in 1972? Much will depend on favourable climatic conditions and the degree of resistance in the hybrids planted.

Hybrid resistance or tolerance to the blight varies from one variety to the next and therefore there will be variations in disease susceptibility.

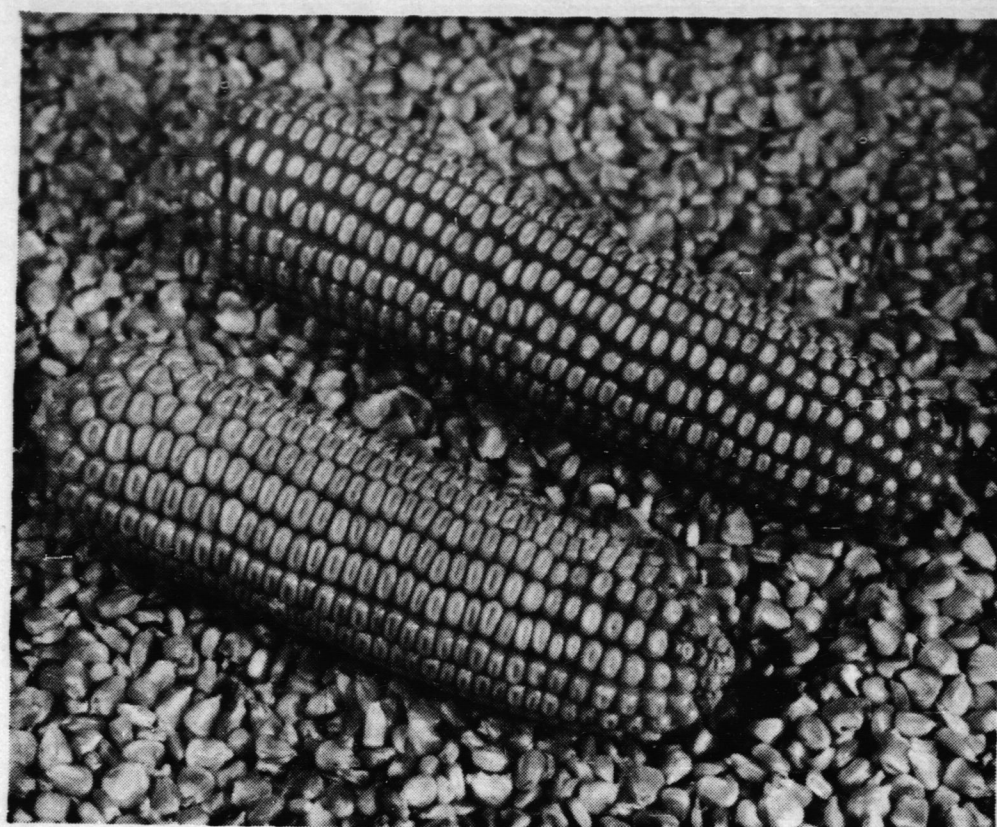
While most of the seed for 1972 will be tagged "N", designating normal cytoplasmic content, we will require a few years of experience growing tolerant varieties under different weather conditions to know for sure whether we can discount southern corn leaf blight as a threat to corn production in Ontario.

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Healthy seed is essential in helping to combat Southern Leaf Blight. (ODAF Photo)

Juniors Farmers Active Year

Providing entertainment at the Grandview Lodge, Dunnville, supplying tractor drivers for the tours at the International Plowing Match, Earth Day, sponsoring dances, camping trips and various sports events were included in last year's active Junior Farmer agenda.

In Jan. 1972 Jeff Turnbull was elected as the new Junior Farmer President and Nancy Farrell as Secretary, with Jim Weatherston, Ralph Hedley, David Murray, Paula Gee, Arlene Fox, Paul Harvey, Mitchel Holt, Jim Kline and Rodney Fox holding down the remaining executive positions.

Rodney has also been selected as one of the four delegates from Ontario to travel to the United Kingdom. This is quite an honor for Rodney and also for the Haldimand Junior Farmers.

Under the new executive the 1972 program promises to be even more exciting than in the past.

Several exhibition hockey games and a bowling tournament have shown enthusiasm is high for the remaining events - the Corn and Forage Show, March 15 and 16 at Kohler with a combined male and female judging night on the 15; Annual Conference March 17, 18 and 19 at the Inn-on-the-Park; Provincial Debating, University of Guelph March 25 with the topic under debate-Resolved that the aver-

age male is more successful in the business world than the average female is in the Kitchen. Another date for all to keep open is April 8, 1972 when the Junior Farmer Dance will be held at

Kohler.

For \$2.75 per year anyone between 14 and 30 can join before April 29 and become a full-fledged Haldimand Junior Farmer member with all its rights, privileges and fun.



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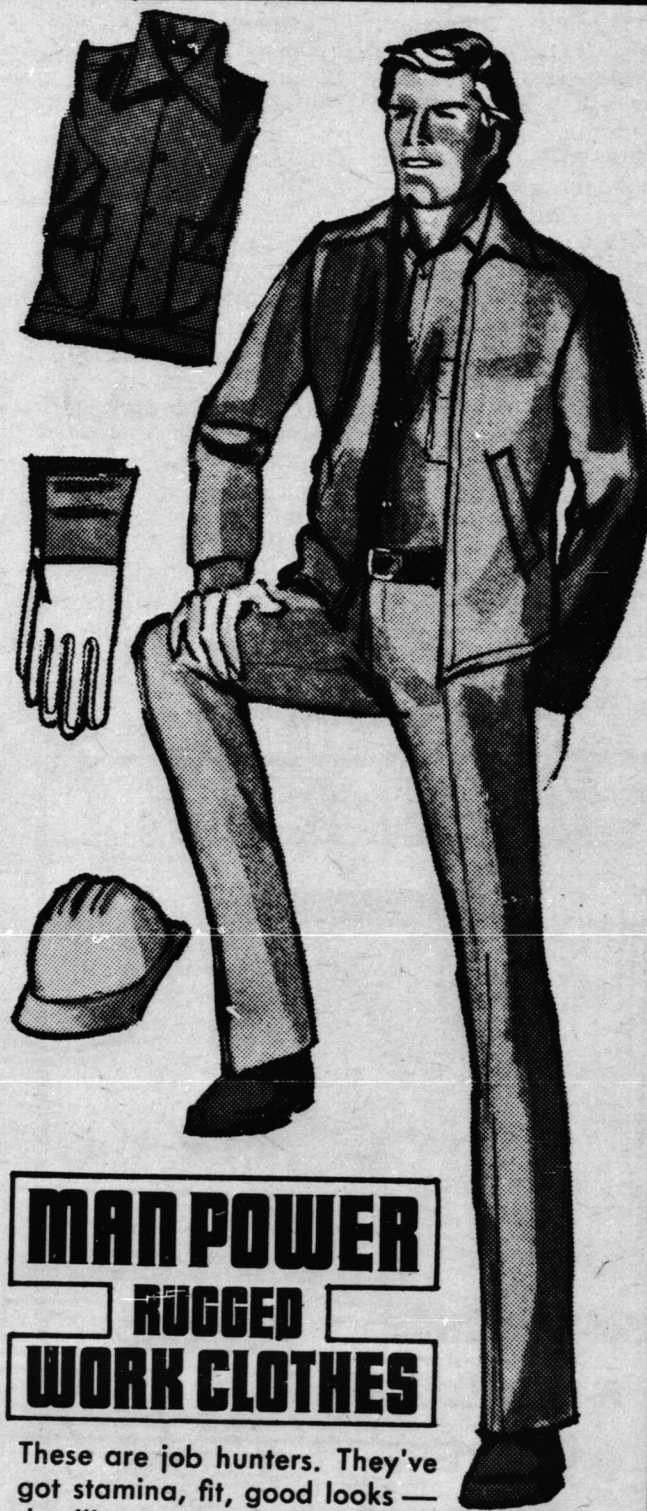
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Comsolve Helps Farmers Solve Problems

By E.M. Wrubleski
Comsolve stands for a new Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food program designed to help Ontario farmers solve some problems in machinery management and engineering through the use of a computer. Some local farmers may have seen the computer working during the Plowing Match this past fall.

The computer system is not meant to be a "know - it - all." It simply is a fast calculator which allows a person to do more complicated arithmetic in a shorter time.

Four problem areas can be handled at this time. The first is tractor sizing. The tractor is sized based on how much land has to be plowed and haylage and silage harvested.

The computer allows for so much time depending on weather data, soil type, field size, man power and topography.

A second program will select ventilation rates for livestock and poultry buildings and predict if extra heat is required depending on the type of building and number and type of livestock. It will size the amount of inlet required.

A third program will calculate silage corn harvested and how many men and machines are used. It will allow for various equipment costs and labor costs. It will also compare the cost to a custom rate.

A fourth program will predict the per bushel cost of harvesting grain corn depending on the

cost of the combine or picker sheller. It will allow for various acreage harvested per year and labor costs. It will also compare the cost to a custom rate.

The service is obtained through the agricultural engineer who can be contacted through the local Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food office. The

engineer will discuss the problem and determine whether it requires the help of the computer.

The input information can be telephoned to the

computer and received back within a short time. A complete print-out can be forwarded later.

This service is available at no cost. Plans are going ahead to

develop more services along this line to analyze more of the farm program as it applies to machinery, buildings, economics and feed preparation.

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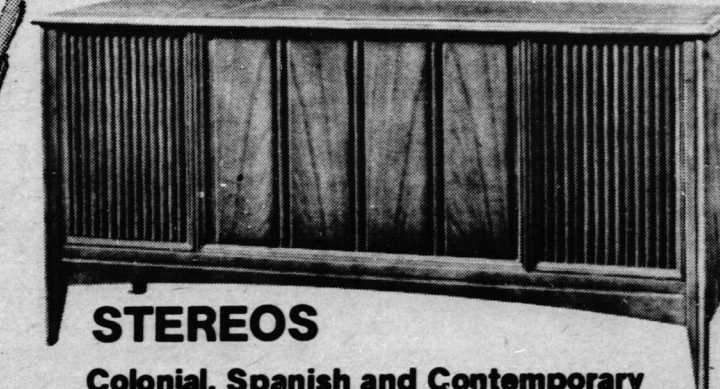
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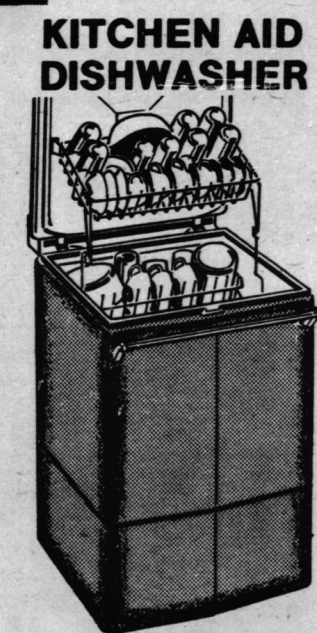
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