261 Forest Fires In State From Midsummer To Nov. 15

Maryland's timberland was visited by 261 forest fires between midsummer and November 15, State Forestry Department officials reported this week.

A survey of damage reported so far this year showed the blazes, in widely separated areas, burned over 2,363 acres, more than half of the total acreage destroyed being centered in Garrett county.

Although figures were incomplete, officials said the damage to date was about equal to that of last year, except for the usual severity of fires in Garrett's tableland country.

Maryland's two forest fire seasons extend from March 1 to the middle of May, and from the middle of October to December 10, with relatively few blazes reported in other months.

Sixty-one fires were reported from Garrett, causing damage to 1,325 acres of timberland. Allegany and western Washington counties listed eighty-one fires, but only 450 acres burned.

Officials said Eastern Shore counties showed an unusual number of fires this season — a total of sixteen, covering 206 acres, reported from the lower Shore counties.

Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's had fifty eight blazes covering 159 acres, and only six were reported from the Blue Ridge area around Frederick and eastern Washington counties.

Lighter Production Potatoes Expected

Potato growers probably will reduce their plantings for the coming year as a result of the low prices received during the past two seasons. This opinion recently was expressed by agricultural authorities.

If a smaller production is realized and if consumer purchasing power improves, as now seems likely, both prices and income received by growers in 1939 would be considerably higher than in recent years, it was said.

The annual outlook report issued last week by the Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics, indicatesi that growers probably will decrease their potato acreage by about 8 per cent. The largest reductions are expected in the states where the late crop is produced, although other areas are expected to show some decrease from 1938 plantings.

Average yields on the acreage now indicated for next year would produce about 310 million bushels. Yields up to the unusually high average of the past two seasons would result in a crop of approximately 350 million bushels. The 1938 potato crop is now estimated at 373 million bushels — more than 3 million bushels larger than the 1927-36 average.

In the intermediate states, it was pointed out, the total acreage planted to potatoes in 1939 is likely to be decreased about 5 per cent. The intermediate commercial areas will show greater decreases than the non commercial areas. Prices received for the 1938 crop in the intermediate States were relatively low and probably have served to discourage growers in these areas.

KEEPING DAHLIA ROOTS THROUGH THE WINTER

Perhaps the most difficult part of dahlia culture comes in thefall of the year when the dormant roots must be stored.

Very shortly after the tops arekilled by frost, it is pointed out by Walter R. Ballard, Specialist in Horticulture for the University of Maryland Extension Service, cut off the tops 3 or 4 inches above the ground and after a few days, lift the root clump from the soil, being careful not to break the "necks" by which the tubers are attached to the stem.

The roots should be allowed to dry in the air for a few hours and then stored in a frost-free cellar that is not too dry. This seems simple enough but only experience can make one sure of the result. If the cellar is too warm or dry, which is a common difficulty, the roots should be stored in the coolest part, in barrels filled with peat moss, dry sand, or sawdust. Care must be taken that the storage material is perfectly dry as otherwise some roots will rot and damage the entire mass. Decay starts in wounds caused in the digging.

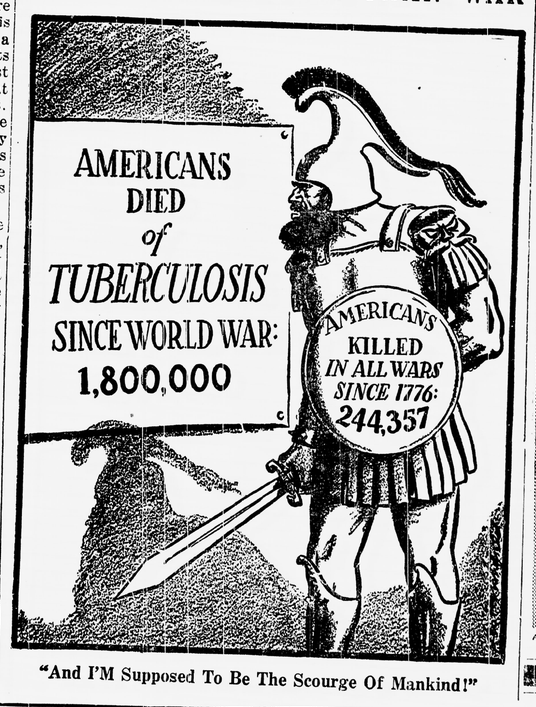
In the spring, as soon as the dormant eyes start to sprout, the individual tubers are separated, leaving an eye or sprout with each tuber. These can be planted as soon as all danger of frost is past.

Mr. Ballard suggests reading Farmers' Bulletin, No. 1370-F, Dahlias in the Home, which can be obtained free of charge from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Seals Have Many Uses

Christmas Seals are attractive Yuletide decorations for packages, envelopes and cards; they are increasingly popular items for stamp collectors and they are powerful weapons for the protection of homes from tuberculosis. They were first sold in this country at Wilmington, Dela., in 1907.

MANY TIMES WORSE THAN WAR



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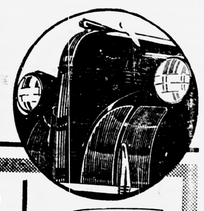

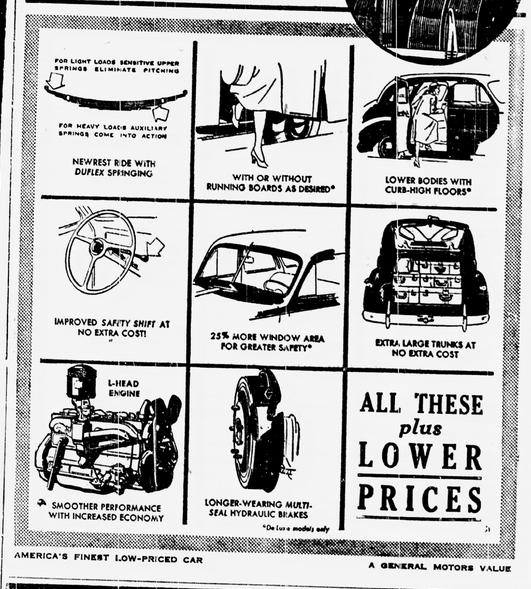

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