



The "crop" of walnut trees is planted 16 ft. apart (both in and between rows) in the bluegrass sod "crop".

WALNUT TREES AND BLUEGRASS SOD

New Wrinkle in Double Cropping

Kentucky farmer R.E. Peterson, Louisville, is attracting a lot of attention with his new wrinkle in double cropping. He raises bluegrass sod in combination with walnut trees.

Peterson, who owns 35 acres near Louisville, has 6,000 walnut trees, some of which are nearly 10 years old and 25 ft. high. They're just coming into production and won't be harvestable timber for 10 or 20 more years. In the meantime, Peterson has harvested bluegrass sod under the trees for the last 8 years. His sod cuttings yield upwards of \$600 per acre.

The walnut trees have been phased into the program for the last 10 years. They're planted 16 ft. apart in 16 ft. rows in the bluegrass fields. The 16 ft. spacing allows fertilizer spreaders and sod cutting machinery to work between the young trees. When the trees get tall and the crowns close in over the row, the sod operation must be phased out because tree roots will be damaged.

Peterson plants 1-year-old walnut seedlings, usually bought from the Kentucky Division of Forestry, but he has raised some of his own from seed.

The walnut-bluegrass double cropping system is on a level flood plain of a river. The area floods almost every year, but the sod and walnut trees will tolerate flooding.

Peterson is just about phased out of sod production and is looking forward to his first nut harvest and, down the road a few more years, his first timber harvest.

Peterson got help in planning his walnut grove from Robert Wise of the Kentucky Division of Forestry in Elizabethtown, Ky. Wise told FARM SHOW that double cropping of trees with annual crops is not completely new. "It's almost a necessity to get some income off land with a high tax base while waiting for trees to come into production," he says. "Some of the military reservations have been experimenting with corn, hay and wheat under black walnut, but hay or sod are really the only successful crops. We don't want tillage equip-

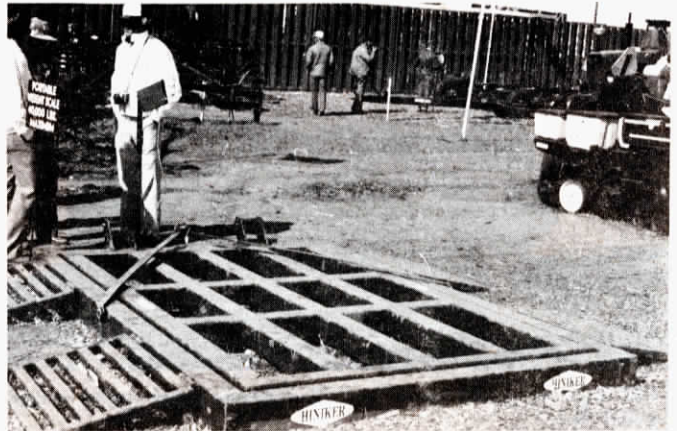
ment getting into walnut groves where it can cut the roots."

Wise says that the average walnut tree will bear nuts at 10-12 years old and yield an 18-20 in. diameter veneer log at 35 or 40 years old. He suggests that interested farmers talk to their state forestry department.

For more information, contact:

FARM SHOW Followup, The Walnut Council, 1201 McAlmont, Box 391, Little Rock, Ark. 72203 (ph 501 376-6301), or:

FARM SHOW Followup, R.E. Peterson, 300 S. Chadwick Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40222 (ph 502 425-7514).



"Go anywhere" scale is accurate to within $\pm 1\%$.

First 3-Pt. Mounted Portable Weigh Scale

Slickest system we've seen for weighing grain, hay and livestock anyplace on your farm—is a new 3-pt. mounted "go anywhere" electronic scale introduced by Hiniker Co., Mankato, Minn.

The portable weigh scale is accurate to within $\pm 1\%$ and has a capacity of 40,000 lbs., according to Mike London, Hiniker sales manager. It can also be used to weigh individual axle loads of large trucks and semi's.

The 1,800 lb. scale fits on any Cat. II 3-pt. tractor for moving from place to place. It can be set right on flat, bare ground. Power is supplied through a 12V battery, or it can be plugged into 110V household current with an available adaptor unit.

"The scale also includes an alarm system that lets you pre-set a target weight," London told FARM SHOW. "When you reach that weight, the alarm sounds so you can quit loading and prevent expensive overweight citations. The alarm can also be used in reverse for unloading a certain amount off a truck. "We think cow-calf operators, and anyone who's renting or share-cropping their land are prime prospects for this new-style scale," London adds.

It sells for \$4,200.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hiniker Co., Box 3407, Mankato, Minn. 56001 (ph 507 625-6621).

"IN MOST CASES, COSTS ARE GREATER THAN THE BENEFIT DERIVED"

Silage Additives: Could You Be Throwing Your Money Away?

Farmers who buy those highly touted silage additives are probably wasting their money, according to a report in a recent issue of Michigan Farmer magazine.

"Research throughout the country indicates that while some products improve silage quality, few improve animal performance. Those that improve animal performance do so in an inconsistent manner," the article by Dave Weinstock, associate editor, points out.

Michigan State University dairy science professor Bill Thomas says he is not convinced silage additives are useful. "In recent years, many preparations have claimed improvement in silage," he says. "Some of these products are beneficial and some are not. However, the easiest and least expensive way to make hay and silage is to do the job correctly.

"Farmers are better off not making an investment that adds to the cost of production. In most cases, the costs are greater than the benefit derived. Neither enzyme products nor bacteria products show sufficient benefit for use," according to Thomas.

Today, there are well over 100 forage improvement products on the market. Their primary active ingredients differ substantially. Some use acids, while others use bacteria, enzymes and cereal by-products, to name a few.

Looking at additives strictly from a preservative standpoint, Purdue University animal scientist K. S. Hendrix notes that: "Research has shown that the best these products can do is to improve dry matter by 5%. This means an additional 35 lbs. of dry matter will be preserved per ton. Assuming dry matter is worth

\$60 per ton, the additional dry matter is worth \$1.05."

Silage additives mentioned in the article include: Sila-Bac, (formerly Sila-Gain), Ensila, Kylage, Silogen, Impruv-All, Sweetzyme, Fresh Crop, Si-Lo-Fame, S. I. Conc., Sila-Lator, Silo-Best, Crop Cure, and Pro-Tex. "It was not possible to cover all silage additives in this article," explains Weinstock. "Products not mentioned were omitted because of an absence of readily available research."

If you'd like a copy of the complete story, entitled "Silage Additives: Could you be throwing your money away?", send \$2.00 to: Silage Additives, c/o Michigan Farmer, 3303 West Saginaw Street, Lansing, Mich. 48914 (ph 517 323-4141). Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.