

the picture is the most difficult to judge, as so many unknown factors are involved.

We could, for instance, try to compare the costs of building a conventional glasshouse and a polythene house of similar dimensions. In both cases the cost is strongly influenced by the amount of work the grower can do himself or with his own staff. Also, variations in the actual purpose of the structure—for instance the requirements of crop support—have an important bearing on the strength and therefore the cost of the structure. There is not nearly enough information available to make a reliable overall estimate of the economics of the subject and any suggestions offered here must be taken with considerable reserve.

Cost of materials for a standard 30 x 100 ft glasshouse in Christchurch is between £600 and £800. Cost of materials used in the structure alone of a plastic house of the same dimensions would be between £150 and £300, depending mainly on the amount of crop support to be incorporated. In addition, the cost of the plastic alone for covering would be between £50 and £60, and this would be an annual expense. As already stated these figures must be taken with a large amount of reserve and they apply to the Canterbury district only, no figures being available from other parts of the country.

They illustrate a trend, however, and that is: for permanent structures, because of the annual cost of recovering the houses with new plastic, a plastic house will in eight to 10 years have cost just as much as a glasshouse. On present knowledge it seems best to use plastic only in the field for which it is inherently most suitable and that is for light, temporary structures.

The use of plastic film for temporary shelter could be very profitable when the reduction of convection heat losses or losses due to wind is more important than reduction of radiation losses. Spring or autumn use would be excellent to hasten a crop or prolong a season. Plastic-covered structures which could be moved from place to place would be of especial value to the beginner with very little capital. It is felt at the moment that it is in this field that plastics are most likely to be valuable, rather than as alternatives to glass in orthodox glasshouse construction.

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Photographs by Mr R. C. Blackmore.

RADIO broadcasts for farmers will be given during June as follows:

IXH Hamilton, 12.33 p.m.

13 June—"What has the Y.F.C. to Offer?", by the Waikato Y.F.C. district committee.

20 June—"Recent Research on Potash", by D. E. Hogg, Senior Scientific Officer, Department of Agriculture Rukuhia Soil Research Station, Hamilton.

27 June—"Farm Profits and Taxes", by J. M. Miller, Farm Advisory Officer (Economics), Department of Agriculture, Hamilton.

IYZ Rotorua, 7.15 p.m.

1 June—"Sprays for the Prevention of Pre-harvest Drop of Grapfruit", by B. M. Piper, Horticultural Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Tauranga.

15 June—"Rearing of Dairy Calves", by K. G. B. Wilson, Livestock Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Opotiki.

29 June—"Planning Farm Expenses for the Year", by S. D. Clay, Farm Advisory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Matamata.

2XG Gisborne, 8 p.m.

7 June—"Stockowners' Question Time", by E. B. Smythe, Livestock Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Gisborne.

14 June—"For the Orchardist", by J. Overbye, Instructor in Horticulture, Department of Agriculture, Gisborne.

21 June—"Erosion Control Methods", by A. Metsers, Soil Conservator, Poverty Bay Catchment Board.

28 June—"Preparation of Farm Sheepskins", by R. W. Scaffe, Sheen and Wool Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Gisborne.

2YZ Nanier, 7.10 p.m.

7 June—"Practical Hints to Poultry Keepers", by H. K. Mullins, Poultry Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Hastings.

21 June—"Some Thoughts about Mole Drainage", by E. W. S. Wilson, Fields Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Hastings.

2XA Wanganui, 8 p.m.

2 June—"For the Countrywoman", by Mary Macdonald.

9 June—"Farming News".

16 June—"Sheep and Wool Notes", by P. C. Marshall, Sheep and Wool Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Wanganui.

23 June—"Livestock Notes", by J. F. Munting, Livestock Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Wanganui.

30 June—"Establishing a Market Garden", by G. N. Paulin, Horticultural Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Wanganui.

2XA Palmerston North, 12.36 p.m.

13 June—"Tile Drainage", by K. L. Mayo, Farm Advisory Officer (Drainage), Department of Agriculture, Palmerston North.

27 June—"Weed Control in Horticultural Crops", by G. N. Paulin, Horticultural Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Palmerston North.

2XP New Plymouth, 8 p.m.

2 June—"News and Views from the Department of Agriculture's Farm Advisory Division", by S. H. Henry, Farm Advisory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Stratford. "Y.F.C. Session", by David Smith, North Taranaki Y.F.C. district committee.

9 June—"Chick Rearing", by B. J. Russell, Poultry Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Wanganui.

23 June—"Radio Vet.", by J. H. Macdonald, Veterinarian, Department of Agriculture, New Plymouth.

3YA Christchurch, 12.20 p.m.

20 June—Review of "The New Zealand Journal of Agriculture", by E. G. Smith, Instructor in Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Rangiora.

4YA Dunedin and 4YZ Invercargill, 12.36 p.m.

13 June—"Hay is Valuable", by R. H. Smith, Farm Advisory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Invercargill.

20 June—"Oversowing Tussock Grassland", by S. M. J. Stockdill, Fields Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Palmerston.

27 June—"The New Zealand Weed Control Conference", by A. Stuart, Assistant Fields Superintendent, Department of Agriculture, Dunedin.

Regular Sessions

1YA Auckland, Mondays at 12.36 p.m.—"Country Journal", including "Report from Ruakura"; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 7.45 p.m.—"Country Journal"; Thursdays at 12.33 p.m.—"News for the Farmer".

1XN Whangarei, Mondays at 8 p.m.—"Northland Stock Market Report" followed by "Farming for Profit"; Wednesdays at 8 p.m.—"Farming for Profit"; and Fridays at 12.33 p.m.—"Farm News".

1XH Hamilton, Mondays at 12.36 p.m.—"For the Farmer" (excluding first Monday in month and public holidays); Wednesdays at 12.33 p.m.—"Report from Ruakura".

1YZ Rotorua, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.—"Bay of Plenty Journal"; Thursdays, 12.33 p.m.—"News for the Farmer".

2YZ Nanier, Tuesdays at 7.10 p.m.—"The Hawke's Bay Farmer"; Thursdays at 12.33 p.m.—"News for the Farmer".

2XG Gisborne, Tuesdays at 8 p.m.—"Farm Session".

2XP New Plymouth, Thursdays at 8 p.m.—"Farm Session".

2XA Wanganui, Mondays at 8 p.m.—"For the Man on the Land"; Tuesdays at 8 p.m.—"Farm Supplement"; and Thursdays at 8 p.m.—"Farm Topics".

2XB Masterton, Fridays at 6.45 p.m.—"Farm Session".

2XN Nelson, Thursdays at 8 p.m.—"Nelson Farm Topics".

2ZA Palmerston North, Mondays at 12.36 p.m.—"Country Digest"; and Fridays at 8.30 p.m.—"Country Digest" (including Felling stock market report).

2YA Wellington, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays at 7.10 p.m.—"Farm Session"; Thursdays at 12.33 p.m.—"News for the Farmer".

3YA Christchurch, Mondays at 12.20 p.m.—"Country Session"; Thursdays at 12.33 p.m.—"News for the Farmer"; and 7.10 p.m.—"Home Paddock".

3XC Timaru, Wednesdays at 8 p.m.—"Farmers' Weekly News Service"; and Saturdays at 10.30 a.m.—"Country Mailbag".

3YZ Greymouth, Mondays at 12.36 p.m., Thursdays at 12.33 p.m.—"News for the Farmer".

4YA Dunedin, Mondays at 12.36 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12.33 p.m.

4YZ Invercargill, Mondays at 12.36 p.m., Wednesdays at 12.33 p.m., and Thursdays at 12.33 p.m.—"News for the Farmer".