Ceylon Cocon. Plrs. Rev. (1972), **6**, 158-159.

LIBRARY CORNER

M. J. C. PERERA

Fertilizing Pine Apple—*What you should know?*

1. Jorgensen, K. R.—Investigation of pine apple fertilizing methods and flower induction. *Qd. J. Agric. Anim. Sci.* 1969, *Vol.* 26 *pp.* 483-493. Table. ref. 3 (Queensland Department of Primary Industries).

The fertilizing methods used included several forms, rates and times of application of nitrogen and potassium fertilizers.

Greater yields were obtained from nitrogen supplied in urea sprays than in side dressings. No differences in yield were obtained from the various rates and frequencies of urea spraying used. Solid urea side dressings gave the same yield as ammonium sulphate side dressings. Applying some nitrogen in the base dressing gave no improvement in yield.

A base dressing of potash have a higher plant crop yield but a lower ratoon crop yield than side dressings of potash. Forcing produced a higher yield from all crops than did natural flowering. There were more fruit with forced flowering but their average weight was less. The effectiveness of the forcing treatment in inducing flowering was not influenced by the different fertilizer treatments. However, when potash was used as a side dressing, fewer plants flowered naturally for the plant crop than when it was applied as a basal dressing. (Author's summary).

2. Jorgensen, K. R.—Comparison of four fertilizer schedules for pineapples in Central Queensland—*Qd. J. Agric. Anim. Sci.* 1969, *Vol.* 26. *pp.* 495-508. Tables. ref. 5.

Four fertilizer schedules for pineapples were compared in the Yeppoon district of Queensland. The soil was very stony, sandy clay loam with a high available potassium content. The highest yields were obtained from a schedule which applied side dressings of a mixed NPK fertilizer five times a year throughout the trial.

Intermediate yields were obtained from schedules which (a) applied potassium in a preplant dressing and in side dressings in the second summer of growth, nitrogen in side dressings in the summers, and urea sprays in the winters; and (b) applied potassium in a preplant dressing and nitrogen in urea sprays throughout the trial. The lowest yields were from a schedule which provided for preplant potassium and no nitrogen. (Author's summary).

Sheep Under Coconut—*Can you have sheep in your coconut land?*

3. Perera, M. E.—Sheep breeding and management under coconut in Ceylon. *Anim. Prod. Health. Bull.* 1970 *Vol.* 4 (2) *pp.* 54-58. Ref. 6.

Potentialities for sheep breeding in the wet zone and intermediate zone of the coconut growing areas with the establishment of pasture especially *Brachiaria miliiformis* is mentioned. Promising results have been obtained by crossing the Indian breeds with the local breeds and these breeds could be successfully raised in coconut lands.

Cattle Under Coconut—*Do they rob your profits from the plantation?*

4. Ohler, J. G.—Cattle under coconut. *Trop. Abstract.* 1969 *Vol.* 24 pp. 639-645. Ref. 52.

A review, dealing with competition for nutrients and moisture, grazing habits, manure production, damage by cattle and carrying capacity. The author concludes that grazing cattle under coconuts on light soil without adversely affecting coconut yields is possible provided that sufficient moisture and plant nutrients are available and that management is efficient. (Hort. abst. 40 (1) 2370).

Herbicide use on coconut lands—*What is their effect?*

5. Kasasian, L. & Smith, R. W.—The effect of a wide range of herbicides on young coconuts. *In : Tech. meeting on herbicides for tree crops with emphasis on coconuts* (1968) pp. 20-23. Tables Ref. 1)

In Jamaica, a wide range of herbicides were tested by spraying around young coconut palms. Monthly applications of paraquat at 0.56 kg.a.i/ha, or a single application of 4.5 kg.a.i/ha atrazine, 11 kg.a.i/ha delapon, 4.5 kg.a.i/ha diuron, or 4.5 kg.a.i/ha terbacil were most promising, although rates were high. Picloram, 2, 4-D, 2, 4, 5-T, and bromacil were toxic and seriously reduced palm growth rate, even to the point of killing some palms. There was strong evidence for concluding that the weeds competed severely with the palms for soil moisture during the severe drought over the whole period of the experiment. (Trop. Abs. 24:2755).

6. Smith, R. W.—The role of herbicides in the management of bearing coconut palms. *In: Tech. meeting on herbicides for tree crops with emphasis on coconuts* 1968. *pp.* 53-60. *Tables. graph. ref.* 3.

In Jamaica, field experiments have demonstrated that the natural pastures under widely spaced tall coconuts compete with the palms, and limit coconut yields. Removal of the weeds using herbicides increases palm yield but not enough to cover the cost of spraying the large area of land beneath each palm. The exposure of the soil over a wide area for extended periods also results in deterioration of soil structure and organic matter, which results in lower coconut yield. The possibility of keeping the soil weed free for limited periods of seasons is being considered. (Trop. Abst. 24:2756).