

## Effects Blowout Control in Season

Blowouts can be controlled in many ways. Some of the methods of control are as follows:

1. Fencing to protect from livestock.
2. Mulching to protect from wind erosion.
3. A combination of the above.
4. Haying or feeding cattle on the blowout during the winter.
5. Establishing a shelterbelt to protect the blown area.
6. Planting the area to trees.
7. Sloping the steep banks, mulching, seeding and protecting the area from grazing until established.

Of these methods, feeding on the blowout is by far the most economical if it can be done. However in many cases the blow area is far away from feeding grounds or lacks protection for winter feeding.

If areas are treated before they become severe any of the first three mentioned above will be sufficient. Frequently it is desirable to establish a shelterbelt for protection of the area. This oftentimes affords a better winter feeding area.

Sometimes it is desirable to plant the area to trees. These trees may later (in addition to stabilizing the blowout) serve as a source of posts or furnish protection to livestock.

When bank sloping is done it is usually because steep vertical banks have developed making all other methods of treatment impractical.

Neither grass nor trees will grow on vertical banks. Although the area may be stabilized in general if steep banks remain they are a constant threat to starting another blowout. If the area is pastured frequently these banks are trampled and pawed by the cattle until blowing is again started. In considering bank sloping the expense of the operation must be considered. However, the value of the land in the area involved is not always a final figure to be considered. The possibility of the area increasing, the area that is covered with sand and the general overall increase in value of the whole ranch if the blowout is stabilized and again returned to pasture use must be considered.

Bank sloping should never be attempted unless the operator has sufficient old hay or other material to mulch the area.

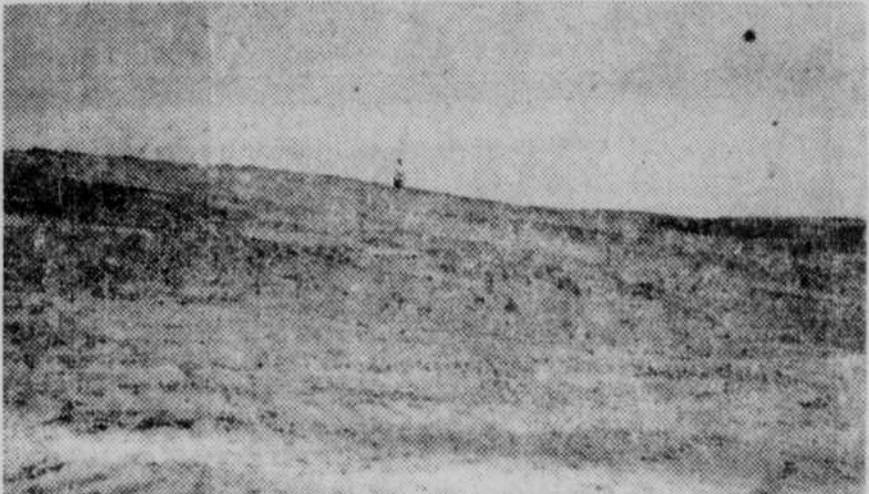
Seeding should always accompany mulching but especially in these cases—a large variety of seed with outstanding seeding vigor and a heavy application per acre should be made. Seeding will greatly reduce the required time for the area to become completely stabilized and ready for use as pasture or meadow. The cost of seeding is usually so small as compared to the leveling operation that it should not be a limiting factor.

C. R. ("Bob") Hill, U. S. Soil Conservation technician, says:

"In working with farmers and ranchers in Holt county, we try to fit our recommendation for treatment to the demands of the area involved.



Harvey Tompkins (right) and Frank Musil, bulldozer operator and neighbor, are shown (above) surveying blowout area before sloping operations were begun. (Note tracks in loose sand). Bank is over 20 feet high, several hundred feet long. Location: One-half mile east and 3 miles south of Inman.



H. T. Young, soil conservation aid, is standing approximately where the vertical bank was in the top photo. Transformation has required only 10 hours' work.



Same area 6 months later. Vegetation is mostly sudan, millet and corn. Native grasses have a good start.

the material on hand, the wishes of the individual, and the economic desirability of one method as compared to another."

"We know that many ranchers are controlling their blowouts without our technical assistance and we are proud of them. However, in some cases we feel that our recommendations based on past experience and those of a large number of cooperators may help prevent an individual from making mistakes. In many cases he may be able to stabilize the area in less time." In the case of Harvey Tompkins, who operates his father's (L. R. Tompkins) ranch, the blowout was fairly large with a steep bank on one side. This bank was 20 feet or more high and several hundred feet long.

Mr. Tompkins says: "For several years we have considered taking care of the blowout but had never been able to get equipment to do it. Contractors could not afford to move very far for such a small job and there was no other work available in the neighborhood. After the army had released the contractors following Operation Snowbound we contacted an operator to work on the blowout. However, the ground was frozen too deep and we had to give it up.

"Later in the spring we hired Musil Bros., nearby ranchers, who had bought a dozer during the winter, to do the job. In approximately 10 hours and at a cost of \$130 the job was done. Before they left we could drive over the whole area with cabling rack or spreader.

"We leveled off the area a bit more by dragging and then covered the area with manure, then seeded and later used several loads of cobs that had gotten wet, then we covered the area with hay. We used old stack butts that we were not able to clean up during the winter. Altogether we used over 50 tons of mulch.

"We seeded the area to everything in the book. Such things as corn, sudan, millet, wheat, rye, oats and sweet clover. Grasses included grama, big bluestem, little bluestem, switch grass, sandlove grass, sand dropseed, and tall dropseed. This winter we added some of the special Colorado grown sand hill alfalfa, some local grown partridge pea and native prairie birdsfoot tree foil. The annual crops made a remarkable growth this summer and many grasses have started. All in all we are well pleased with results.

"We did not graze the pasture at all last summer. The lower areas were cut for hay and the yield was remarkable. The higher hills were mowed only where necessary to control weeds. The stock was grazed on one of our meadows instead of this pasture for the time they would have normally been on this pasture.

"There are other areas on the hills in this pasture that are as light as the former blowout is now. We realize that our pasture management program will have to be such that we will not over-graze the hills. We hope to be able to control grazing but still use this pasture without endangering this blowout.

"If we see that it is necessary we will fence out the north 40 acres (this can be done with one-fourth mile of fence) and will windrow the hay and use it only for late fall pasture.

"We are more than pleased with results so far and will do whatever is necessary to protect the area sufficiently, but still will have to make as much use of this pasture as is possible."

Fred Lindberg says: "We have been having a hard time trying to stop sand blowing on our north place. With the help of Mr. Bredehauer of the Soil Conservation Service," he continued, "we decided to use trees and see if we could get it established.

"In the spring of 1947 the district crew and equipment planted 630 black locust, 700 red cedar, 350 Chinese elm, and 100 American elm.

The black locust and cedar have done the best. There are some volunteer cottonwood in the area but they have not

shown the growth the black locust has.

"These trees were planted in sand that was on the move with just a slight breeze. The area was too big to be feasible to hay and we had had difficulty trying to establish it to grass. We planted it to trees in the hope of getting some cover and stopping the blowout. Of course there was no way to prepare the ground before planting it and it has not been necessary to cultivate. However, now that the trees are giving more protection some native grasses are beginning to get started.

"We alternated the rows of cedar and black locust, putting the rows about 10 feet apart and 8 feet in the row. In 1949 we split the rows where survival was poor and planted an additional area. I am more than pleased with the results.

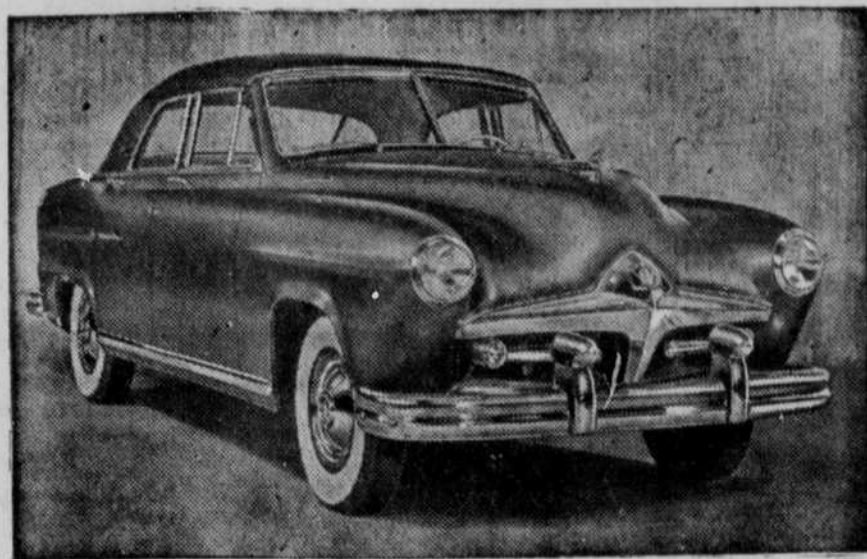
"Black locust make good posts so should be able to use the trees in the future as a source of posts. The cedar are knee high now and some day they will make a wonderful cedar grove.

"We started planting in the

spring of 1947 and planted 2400 more black locust and 200 honey locust in the spring of '49. We will probably complete planting the area next spring. "It is almost unbelievable the change those trees have brought to the blow sand in the northeast corner of the quarter. What was a barren waste three years ago now looks like a young forest."

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# Conservation-Minded Folks Demand Economical Transportation

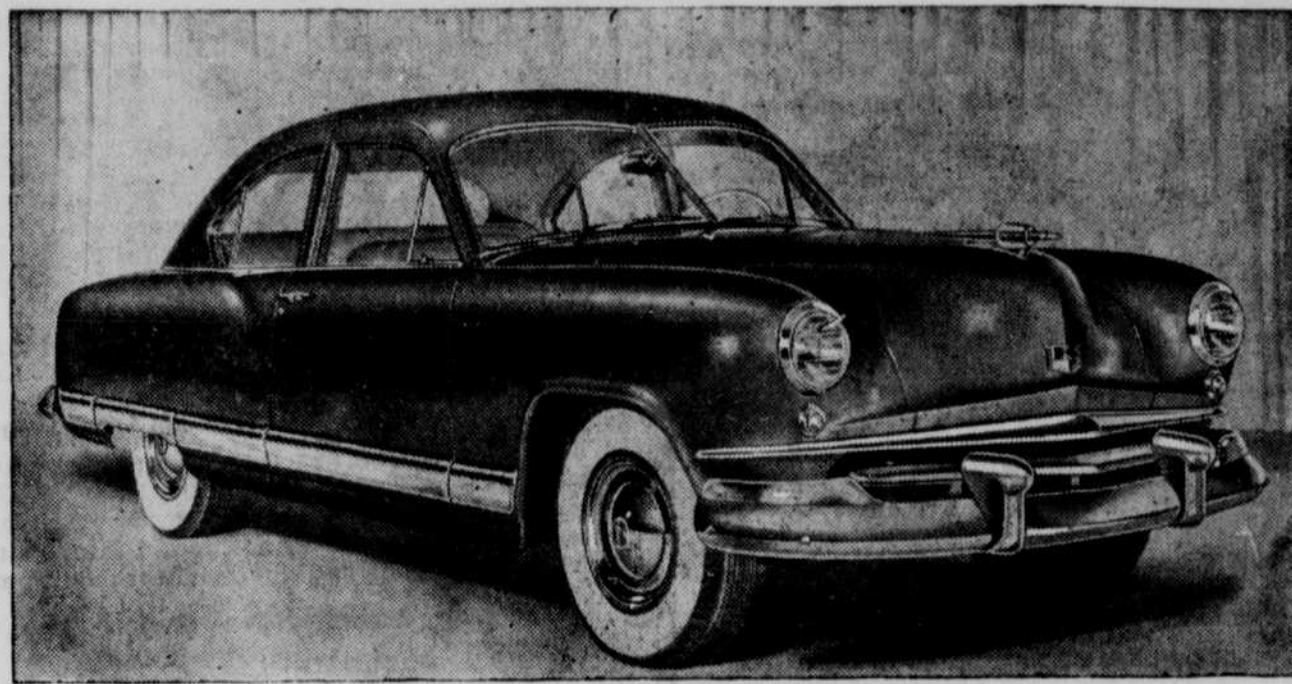


1951 Frazer Manhattan

The new Frazer series is marked by aerodynamic styling evident in the elevation of the rear fenders, which "hop-up" above the waistline of the car; choice of hydra-matic or overdrive is offered as extra equipment.

ON DISPLAY NEXT MONTH

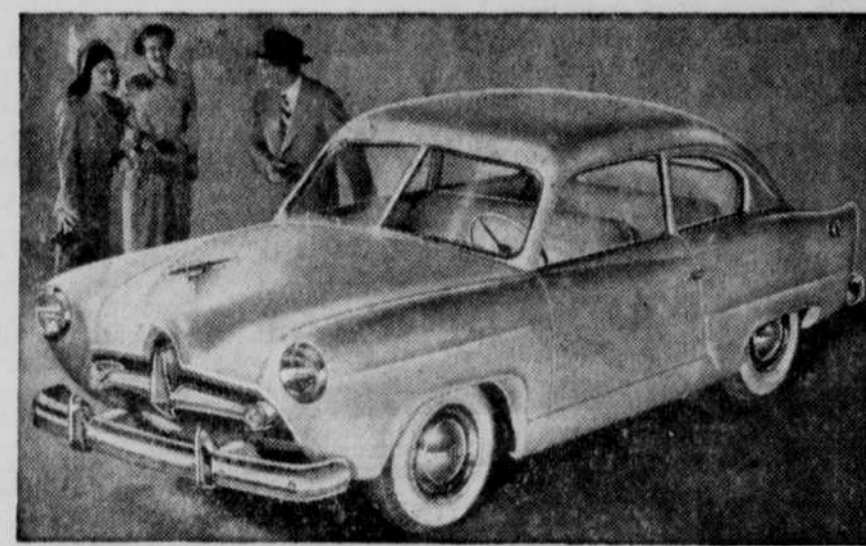
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