

Fertilizer Facts Are Given By Tuckwiller

Farmers should make sure they know what they're getting when they buy fertilizer, according to L. E. Tuckwiller, Watauga county farm agent. A lot of money is wasted every year by farmers who don't take time to investigate the contents of their fertilizer bags.

Mr. Tuckwiller says there are two simple ways a farmer can be relatively sure that he's getting what he pays for: (1) by buying only those grades of fertilizer which appear on the Approved Grade List and which are recommended for the crop and soil conditions on his own farm; and (2) by inspecting the label or tag that appears on the fertilizer bags.

These points are highly important, according to Mr. Tuckwiller, because the question of "custom-mixed" fertilizers has recently been raised. The Fertilizer Grade List for North Carolina contains a sufficiently wide range of grades for practically all the different soil conditions in the state. One of the principal reasons for having "custom-mixed" fertilizers is to include the so-called trace elements. But except for certain crops, which are already provided for in the ferti-

lizer law, the use of the trace elements is of no value; and they may even do more harm than good.

Trace elements that are known to limit crop production in North Carolina include boron, which is needed only for alfalfa, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, other cruciferous crops, and sweet potatoes. It is not recommended for use on other crops; and if applied to certain ones, boron may even cause injury, particularly to bean crops. Peaches in the Sandhills require the addition of zinc; and overlimed soils of the Coastal Plains may require the addition of manganese if soybeans, peanuts, or small grains are to be grown on these areas.

Deficient crops growing on such overlimed areas should be treated by spraying or dusting with manganese sulfate applied at the rate of 10 pounds per acre. The list of minor-elements necessary to add to North Carolina soils will probably increase in the future. But until a definite need for these elements is known to exist, Watauga farmers would be wise to apply only those currently recommended, and then only on those crops specific-

ally requiring them. Otherwise, they may run into considerable trouble.

The fertilizer grade is the guaranteed minimum percentage of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash contained in a fertilizer. A number of grades are available in North Carolina, all of which appear on the Approved Grade List. This Grade List is determined each year at a public hearing at which farmer representatives, members of the fertilizer industry, N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station scientists, and representatives of the N. C. Department of Agriculture meet with the members of the Board of Agriculture to consider the various grades that are needed to meet the different soil and crop conditions of the state. The selection of these grades, Mr. Tuckwiller explains, is based on N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station data and the judgment of farmers and industry representatives. The grades appearing on the list may then be manufactured and offered for sale by the various companies operating in North Carolina and adjoining states.

To be certain that the purchaser of fertilizer gets the quantity of plant-nutrient elements guaranteed on the bag, the N. C. Department of Agriculture maintains an effective inspection service. State inspectors sample fertilizer present in warehouses and other places of sale and in storage. These samples are analyzed; and if they do not contain the quantities of nitrogen, phosphate, potash, and other elements guaranteed on the label, the manufacturer must reimburse the purchaser an amount of money sufficient to compensate for this shortage.

As long as farmers purchase these approved grades of fertilizer in sacks or bags that contain a clearly stated guarantee, they can be reasonably sure of getting their money's worth. In fact, farmers who in 1956 purchased these approved grades received, on the average, plant nutrients in excess of the guaranteed amount that was worth 88 cents per ton of fertilizer. There's nothing, of course, to prevent a grower from having his own formula mixed for use on his own farm. But, Mr. Tuckwiller continues, there are several things a farmer should consider if he plans to use a "custom-mix" of his own specifications. In the first place, he should make certain that the manufacturer is actually mixing the batch especially for the grower, and not merely supplying him with some premixed grade that he has in stock.

Another point to consider is that "custom-mixed" fertilizers may be applied so quickly after man-

Easter Seals Bring To Many Brighter Outlook

Chapel Hill—To thousands of crippled children in North Carolina the emblem of Easter Seals means new hope for better living within the limits of their physical abilities.

Hundreds of volunteer workers in 83 communities in this state are now in the midst of a campaign to raise funds that will aid crippled children and other persons with physical handicaps. The annual Easter Seal Sale is underway sponsored by the North Carolina Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

The N. C. Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to serve crippled children and adults in this state, by providing certain services to improve the health, welfare, education rehabilitation the handicapped.

Part of the money raised goes to buy crutches, wheel chairs and other facilities that will assist the crippled, as well as to pay for the services of physical therapists who are trained to give special help in helping the crippled to help themselves in physical improvement.

Some of the money goes to buy medicine and to pay hospital bills when needed.

A part of the dollars raised goes to help boys and girls with speech difficulties to overcome to a great extent their speech deficiencies.

Some of it pays for necessary x-rays, medical and dental care.

The N. C. Society and the local

unfacture that they are not around long enough to be officially sampled for analysis. This is a highly important point that every grower should seriously consider; failure to get the amounts of nitrogen, phosphate, potash, and other elements that were paid for means a lowering of the grower's net income.

A third point to keep in mind is that "custom-mixes" may not have time to cure sufficiently. As a result, the grower may have to apply wet or green fertilizer that is hard to handle and difficult to distribute evenly in the field.

The last point, Mr. Tuckwiller emphasizes, is that the approved grades of fertilizer offered for sale in North Carolina are sufficiently numerous to cover practically all soil conditions in the state, so that growers have at their disposal a fertilizer that will fill their needs equally as well as any "custom-mixed" material. In addition, the purchaser has a greater assurance that he will be getting exactly what he pays for.

All facts considered, Mr. Tuckwiller concludes, a farmer will generally do a lot better to purchase those approved fertilizer grades which will supply, in the proper ratio and amount, the plant-nutrient elements found by a soil test to be needed for his particular crop and soil conditions. And since there is a grade or material for all of those various conditions in the state, there seems to be little justification for the trouble and probable added cost of "custom-mixed" fertilizers.

organizations cooperate in special orthopedic clinics and pre-school and recreation opportunities for and educational programs.

Attend Legion Meet At Hudson

Attending the American Legion Auxiliary district meeting at Hudson April 10 were the following women from the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 130 of Boone:

Mrs. Ethel Gross, Mrs. J. W. Norris, Mrs. Roy Ruffy, Mrs. Lionel Ward, and Mrs. Troy Norris.

The meeting was held in the American Legion Post Home and a large number of Auxiliary members from the district were present.

The house was called to order and the address of welcome was given by Mrs. Theresa Sherrill of Hudson and the response was given by Mrs. F. B. Rebet of Valdese. Mr. Fred Mathes gave the Auxiliary a hearty welcome in behalf of the Legionaires.

Mrs. Shirley Clark introduced the speaker, Mrs. Paul Johnson, N. C. Department President who gave a most interesting talk on phases of the work of the Auxiliary and their achievements.

The reports from each Auxiliary were given and many things had been done to promote the welfare of the veterans and their families.

After the meeting adjourned refreshments were served by the Auxiliary women of Hudson.

Wheat Deadline Date Draws Near

The deadline for preservation of wheat acreage history for wheat allotment farms is May 1, 1957, according to Dwight Cable, Chairman of the Watauga ASC Committee. The deadline for preserving acreage history for Burley tobacco farms is August 1, 1957.

If a farmer has not placed either of these commodities in the Soil Bank and does not intend to plant the full allotment for each crop, the history of these allotted crops may be preserved by signing the prescribed form at the ASC office before the closing date for each commodity. Such a certification must state that the applicant is the owner or operator of the farm carrying the allotment. Under these latest provisions no farmer should lose any acreage of allotted crops by underplanting.

TURF TOO HARD

Greensburg, Pa.—Alec Deitch, of Fox Chapel, and three of his friends were playing golf recently. On the ninth hole, Deitch, had a good drive that carried his ball within 75 yards of the green. For his pitch shot, Deitch selected a No. 9 iron but cut too deeply into the frozen turf and came up with a fractured right forearm.

Farmers in the United States marketed 2 to 3 per cent more product in 1956 than in 1955.

Carl M. Eller Funeral Held

Carl M. Eller, 64, of East Somerset, Ky., died March 31 in Somerset City Hospital. He was stricken with a heart attack March 25.

A native of North Carolina, Mr. Eller was born in Sugar Grove, February 25, 1893, the son of the late William H. and Hannah Wilson Eller.

Mr. Eller married Margaret Richardson and two children were born to this union. He later married Agnes Perry, who survives him.

Mr. Eller was employed as a night watchman at the Somerset Stone Company for some time before his death. He was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church. His work in the church and his warm, friendly nature, won him many friends here who are saddened at his death.

Mr. Eller served in the armed forces during World War I.

Mr. Eller is survived by his wife; one daughter, Mrs. June Payne, Ecorse, Mich.; one son, Lyle Eller, Dearborn, Mich.; two sisters, Mrs. Pansy Gundie, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Mrs. Rose Greene, Sugar Grove, N. C.; four brothers, Ralph Eller, Somerset, Kentucky, Raleigh Eller, Whiting, Iowa, Ray Eller, Sioux City, Iowa, and George Eller, Akron, Ohio.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon, April 3 at 2 p.m. at the Calvary Baptist Church. Dr. Preston L. Ramsey and the Rev. J. B. Allen conducted the services. Burial was in the Mills Springs National cemetery.

Traffic Deaths

Raleigh—The Motor Vehicles Department's summary of traffic deaths through April 8:

Killed this year: 248.
Killed to date last year: 265.
If safety is worth a life, drive and walk carefully!

Overn fruits and vegetables require longer cooking and more liquid than surface cooking.

SECRET STANDARDS

The White House has refused to withdraw an order of President Eisenhower's fixing secrecy standards for Government information.

A presidential aide notified editors that the 1953 directive gives "the minimum protection necessary to the defense interests of the nation."

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2-1 lb. Pkgs. Carrots . . 17c | Green Peppers, Lb. . . . 25c

Oranges, Doz. 27c | Cucumbers, 2 Lbs. . . . 25c

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TENDERIZED HAMS, half or whole, lb. . . . 59c

HAMBURGER, 3 lbs. \$1.00

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