

Effort To Help Farmers Protect Peanuts From Disease

By Dr. J.W. Pou

North Carolina State University agricultural scientists recently announced the first break in the research effort to help farmers protect peanuts from a highly destructive fungus disease called

Cylindrocladium Black Rot (CBR), according to Woody Upchurch, Agricultural Communications Specialist at N.C. State University.

Dr. Durwood F. Bateman, director of the N.C. Agricultural Research Service (NCARS), said the

peanut variety NC8C with resistance to CBR has been developed and was released for limited planting in 1982. The announcement was made at the Peanut Belt Research Station at Lewiston. Sufficient certified NC8C seed were available to plant

about 300 acres this year. Additional supplies of foundation seed will be planted for seed increase for the 1983 crop. North Carolina grows about 170,000 acres of peanuts.

The variety NC8C was developed by NCARS crop scientist Johnny Wynne and plant pathologist Marvin Beute in an accelerated breeding program that began soon after CBR was identified in North Carolina and Virginia in 1970.

Bateman said the development of a resistant peanut "is a major research achievement and gives growers their first effective tool in dealing with CBR," a plant pest the NCSU agricultural administrator called "a severe disease that causes substantial yield losses."

None of the scores of chemical compounds screened for CBR control has been effective, Bateman said. CBR was originally identified in Georgia in 1965 but has become a more severe problem in the

northern end of the peanut belt in Virginia and North Carolina.

The disease-causing organism is known to exist in most major peanut producing counties of those two states. Losses to the disease in 1981 in North Carolina alone are estimated at \$12 million.

The resistant variety NC8C will allow growers to return peanuts to fields where profitable production has been made impossible by CBR, Bateman said. "However, NC8C isn't a cure-all," he added. "Growers will have to continue rotation (alternating peanuts with other crops) and follow good management, particularly in controlling nematodes."

Nematodes, tiny worm-like organisms in the soil, reduce the effectiveness of NC8C's CBR resistance. Research by NCARS scientists is continuing in search of higher levels of CBR resistance, Bateman said.

NC8C is described as a large-seeded Virginia type

peanut with a runner growth habit similar to Florigiant, the predominant Virginia type peanut variety. Pods are somewhat smaller than those of Florigiant and seeds are rounder in shape.

Yields of NC8C have been similar to those of Florigiant in non-infested soils and much higher in CBR infested soils.

Comparative tests of NC8C with Florigiant in 1978-1980 on clean land showed that the NC8C average yield was 3,986 pounds per acre compared to 3,498 pounds for Florigiant. The increased value of NC8C peanuts in these tests amounted to \$114 per acre.

In tests on infested soil on the Everett Byrd Farm at Clarkton, NC8C yielded 3,719 pounds per acre compared to 2,275 pounds for the more susceptible Florigiant. The value increase was \$362 per acre.

In addition to its resistance to CBR, NC8C is more tolerant of the Southern Stem Rot fungus than other commercial varieties.



WATER SAFETY TEAM — Members of The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Water Safety Team for District - One are: (L-R) Kelly Dilday, Terry Waterfield, Calvin Barnes, Ron Mason and Ken Craft. (Photo by Mike Overton)

Water Safety Team Available

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's Water Safety Team for District - One main purpose will be to demonstrate how lives are needlessly lost each year in water related accidents and how many of these accidents could be avoided. Topics included in the demonstration are: the correct use of personal floatation devices, danger situations, the use of clothing to stay afloat, loading equipment and people into a boat, unsafe movement in a boat, the checking of safety equipment, boats underway, how to approach docks, towing, skiing, and the loading of the boat on the

trailer. Wildlife Enforcement Officers, Terry Waterfield stationed in Elizabeth City, Calvin Barnes stationed in Gatesville, Ron Mason stationed in Plymouth, Kelly Dilday stationed in Windsor and Ken Craft stationed in Lewiston are the members of the Water Safety Team.

The Water Safety Team is available for demonstrations upon request. If a person or persons would like to have the team give a demonstration for a group or groups they should call the toll free number 1-800-662-7137 in Raleigh. Please give notice two weeks before schedule demonstration.

Solar Greenhouse Cherry Tomatoes

"We got an old whiskey barrel from Jack Daniels and filled it with soil and planted some cherry tomatoes. Those tomato plants grew all the way to the ceiling and we were eating them in mid winter," Esther Hyatt said.

As director of the John C. Campbell Folk School, Hyatt had reason to brag. Not only had their new passive solar greenhouse enabled them to grow tomatoes when most folks were shoveling snow out of their driveways, but it cut their use of fuel oil over 15 per cent from the previous year.

The Folk School proposed to build a two story solar greenhouse for \$8,000 in 1979. The Department of Energy Appropriate Technology-Small Grants Program funded their proposal in the Fall of that year. Bob Fink of the school, and Andy Ward of Sun-Earth Home Builders designed the greenhouse. Ward supervised the construction which used both contract labor and staff.

Brasstown where the Folk School is located lies in the mountains of Clay County, North Carolina, which has a latitude of 35 degrees. The angle of the greenhouse glazing is 60 degrees, which means that in the coldest months of January and February the sun is almost perpendicular to the Thermopane double glazing. This gives the greenhouse maximum heat and light in the winter. In fact, if the greenhouse were left shut tight on a sunny winter day, temperatures could exceed 100 degrees. On most sunny winter days you will find the door of the dining room open to the greenhouse on the ground floor. On the upper level of the greenhouse the windows of the craft shop and the bookkeeper's office allow heat to flow out of the greenhouse.

To store heat the greenhouse uses a variety of thermal mass. Primary storage comes from the 16 flat black 55 gallon drums filled with water located under growing tables in the greenhouse. A secondary source of thermal mass comes from the dark green cement floor.

The stone wall of Keith House forms the north wall of the greenhouse and

serves as another source of thermal mass. Likewise, the soil in the planters adds to the thermal mass which in turn helps moderate temperatures in the greenhouse. In the winter the thermal mass helps heat the greenhouse at night. In the summer the thermal mass helps absorb excess heat so that it takes longer for the greenhouse to heat.

Large stately oaks provide summer shading for the greenhouse and obligingly lose their leaves about the time more sun is needed for heating purposes. In addition to the oaks, the greenhouse uses three ventilating windows, and an exhaust fan for

cooling during the summer months.

Although the greenhouse is attractive and functional, it is not made of elaborate materials. Most of the lumber came from the school's forest and was cut in the school's saw mill. The concrete floor measures 13 x 24 feet and is surrounded by a two foot high concrete block wall.

Since the Folk School teaches organic farming practices and alternative forms of energy as part of its homesteading curriculum, the greenhouse plays a large part in the educational activities the school sponsors.

To Play Basketball For Wesleyan

ROCKY MOUNT — N.C. Wesleyan College announced today the signing of basketball player Denise Anne Jordan of Tyner.

Jordan, a transfer from Chowan Junior College, played for coach Fred White at Chowan High School and for coach Gay Scott at Chowan Junior College where she averaged 12 points per game last year. During her high school career Jordan scored over 1,000 points and was named All Conference for four consecutive seasons.

Denise Anne Jordan is the daughter of Earl and Anne Jordan of Tyner. N.C. Wesleyan College is a member of the NCAA,

Division III, and the Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Wesleyan coach Laura Ferrell expects the 5'8" hoopster to help the Battling Bishops at the forward spot. "We look for Denise to give us a consistent scoring punch as well as some solid rebounding from the wing position," said Ferrell. "She is the type of player that goes on the court every night and gives you a consistent, steady game. Her college experience will help on and off the court, too," Ferrell added.

"Discretion is seeing as much as you ought, not as much as you can," de Montaigne

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