

Spring And Lawnmowers Farm Report — Release Of Anson Barley And Madison Oats

by Jean Winslow
 *New moon on the 12th, which is also Lincoln's birthday, which is two days before St. Valentine's Day, which is two days before Ash Wednesday, which means we've got only six fat days before the leanest of Lent.

*Bring branches of spring blooming plants and trees in for forcing: forsythia, apple, peach, spirea, shadblow, ornamental quinces, pussy willows.

*Miniature roses offer a fascinating hobby, particularly if you like container gardening. Write for the catalog: The Miniature Rose Company, 200 Rose Ridge, Greenwood, S.C., 29647.

*Oil lawnmowers and sharpen blades. Get power tools such as clippers and pruners ready for spring action.

*While working with power-driven machines, be careful not to spill petroleum products on vegetation. Should you spill hydraulic or motor oil, God forbid, prepare a cup of detergent in a gallon of warm water. Carefully pour over affected area. If you spill gas, forget it. It kills vegetation outright, and you'll have to replant. No smoking. No striking matches.

John (number three son) was outside with his inseparable friend Robert, Mary Ann Moore's son. Our two families lived back to back, separated by a brick serpentine wall and tall pines. Typical mischievous little boys.

John came in right before lunch on a hot August day. He looked awful. He wrung his hands as he said "Mama, I feel like I'm going to be sick." I believed him, and began routine Mommy ministrations until I heard "swoosh", a sound I hadn't heard since leaving the coal fields of West Virginia. We called it "crown-hopping" there. Whatever the term, fire jumping from one tree top to another automatically instills cold dread once you've heard it. That's what was happening in my back yard and that's why John was sick. He and Bob had hidden between the back of the tool house and the brick wall. They piled up dry pine needles and lit them with illicit wooden matches. Seems they got out seconds before an explosion ripped the tool house apart, throwing pieces of lawn mowers, bicycles and rakes over several back yards.

Firetrucks came. Lots of firetrucks. Current for the whole neighborhood was wiped out. A block away, Lake Forest Veteran's Hospital went on emergency generator. A crowd formed on the other side of ten hoses hooked up to anything that provided water.

My next door neighbor, Mrs. Feinman, was seen

dashing through the camellia hedge with a red rubber hose barely dripping water, yelling "Fire, fire!"

The holocaust was quenched before it actually became a holocaust. Firemen rolled up miles of hose, looked at John and Robert and then at each other. The look unmistakably said "...man, if those kids were mine..." Off they went along with the crowd and Mary Ann and I surveyed the damage.

Now Mary Ann and I are the closest of friends, were and still are.

"Oh, look, you've lost your lawn mower," she said. What a friend I thought, she's going to loan me hers and help me buy another.

I've got an extra one, and since you've been the one that's had all the trouble you can have it."

I leaned over to hug Her Munificence—"for just \$10.00 over cost."

Dogwoods Given

The National Arbor Day Foundation is giving three free White Flowering Dogwood trees to new Foundation members joining during February, 1983.

The free trees, which are part of the Foundation's efforts to promote tree planting throughout America, will be shipped at the appropriate time for planting this spring.

Dogwood trees were chosen for this campaign because of their year-round beauty, according to the Foundation. The Dogwoods have a long-lasting flowering in the spring, scarlet foliage in the fall, and red berries which attract birds all winter. The Dogwoods are hardy, low-maintenance trees.

The National Arbor Day Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is working to improve the quality of life throughout the country by encouraging tree planting. The Foundation will give three Flowering Dogwood trees to new members contributing \$10 or more during February. The trees will be three to four feet tall and will be sent postage paid with enclosed planting instructions. They are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free by the Foundation.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees a \$10 membership contribution should be sent to FREE DOGWOODS, National Arbor Day Foundation, Arbor Lodge 100, Nebraska City, NE 68410 by February 28, 1983.



The baboon is the largest of the monkeys.

by Dr. J.W. Fou
 An awnless barley and a stiff-strawed oat have been developed in the small grain breeding program of the Agricultural Research Service, North Carolina State University.

The release of Anson barley and Madison oats was announced by Dr. Durward F. Bateman, Director of the N.C. Agricultural Research Service. The varieties were developed by Charles F. Murphy, Professor of Crop Science.

Seed of the barley variety will be increased by certified seed producers in the 1982-83 crop year and should be generally available to farmers before the fall of 1984.

Anson is being released as a variety superior to Clayton, currently the most popular awnless or beardless barley grown by North Carolina farmers.

Madison will give farmers a choice of high yielding varieties similar to Brooks and Coker 716.

Plant breeder Murphy said Madison's outstanding characteristics in field trials have been its "exceptional" straw strength, which makes it highly resistant to lodging or falling over, and a protein production potential equal to or slightly higher than Brooks.

Madison is shorter than varieties now being grown in North Carolina and other southeastern states. It is about five inches shorter than Brooks, Murphy said.

Yields of the new oat have been slightly higher than Brooks and Coker 716 in the Coastal Plain locations but slightly lower in Piedmont locations where winter weather was colder than normal, specifically in 1980 and 1982.

"Madison's winter hardiness isn't quite as good as Brooks and Coker," said Murphy, "but under normal, winter conditions it may be more productive than either Brooks or Coker 716."

The new oat variety is superior in winter hardiness to Carolan, the variety most widely grown in the state for nearly two decades.

The new barley release, Anson, is expected to give farmers a better awnless variety than they have had. While it doesn't produce the yields of some of the better bearded varieties, such as Milton and Boone, Anson out-produced Clayton by 6.5 per cent in all tests.

North Carolina farmers grew more wheat than ever last spring but the prices they have been receiving for it are the lowest in four years.

State acreage and total production set records for the third consecutive year, with 480,000 acres yielding 17.3 million bushels, up from 410,000 acres and 16 million bushels a year ago and 300,000

and 10.5 million bushels two years ago. "We slipped some in yield per acre," said Ron Jarrett, extension small grain specialist at North Carolina State University. "This was

due primarily to weather-related problems, particularly frequent rains that resulted in disease pressure on the crop and an unusual cold snap in April that effected pollination."

The average yield was 36 bushels an acre, compared to 39 bushels from the previous crop.

Some farmers far exceeded the average yield. Johnston County grower Norman Den-

ning, Jr. won the state production championship with an official yield of 86.7 bushels an acre.

The winning yield, which qualifies Denning for a cash prize and a plaque, was

measured on 3.8 acres. Murray Berry of Pasquotank County was runner-up with a yield of 80.2 bushels. Third place went to James Hardison of Pamlico County, 72.1 bushels.

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Williams
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 directed the excellent San Diego Chamber Orchestra. The American Boychoir will be singing to sold out audiences in their annual tour of the South and Florida this month, concluding at Converse College in South Carolina before coming to Elizabeth City where interested citizens already have contributed much toward hospitality, housing, and financial aid. Accountant Dick Aiken will supervise funds since any surplus will be donated to the choir's scholarship fund. Eighty percent of the boys are on scholarships. It is not a school for affluent boys but a school for boys who love to sing. Local boys with talent may contact Mrs. Williams at 330-2777 for information about auditioning and a possible free trial week in Princeton, at the former Gerald B. Lambert mansion, "Albemarle," home of the American Boychoir. The school also holds a unique summer boarding camp in music and athletics at Albemarle hosting boys and girls 6-13 from all parts of the United States. Ticket information is available through Mrs. Williams, Mrs. George Haskett, at 335-1166, Deekside, Harris Music Center, Ozona News and the Marina Restaurant.