

Agriculturally Speaking

Farmers Asked To Guard Against Witchweed In Buying Tob. Plants

By FRANK REAMS
County Ext. Chairman
COMING EVENTS
June 19-30: 1967 Cotton
Classing and Fiber Testing
Short Course, Morehead City.
July 10-17: American
Breeder Service Stud Tour.

WITCHWEED

It is hopeful Warren tobacco producers will have adequate plants and not be forced to go outside the county. Anytime you leave the county, you run a serious risk of bringing in all kinds of diseases, parasites and insects. Witchweed is one plant parasite we should run from like a "shot rabbit."

Mr. Jack Vinson of the Pest Control Division of the USDA was in the office several days ago bringing us up-to-date on the spread of this dreaded parasite. He states Warren tobacco farmers should be careful where they obtain plants outside the county. This pest has been found in and south of the following counties: Anson, Richmond, Montgomery, Moore, Lee, Harnett, Wake, Johnston, Wayne, Pitt and Craven counties.

If you do go into these counties, be sure to first talk to the Plant Pest Control officials or the County Agricultural Extension Agents. If you contact us, we will be glad to discuss this with you in some detail.

Description

Here is a brief description of this parasite:

Witchweed is a parasitic plant that attacks corn, sorghum, sugarcane, rice, wheat, oats, barley, and more than 60 species of the grass and sedge families, and some broad-leaved plants. This weed is a serious pest in South Africa and occurs in many other parts of the Eastern Hemisphere. It was first discovered in the Western Hemisphere in adjoining areas of North Carolina and South Carolina in 1956.

How It Grows

The seeds, which are nearly microscopic, may lie dormant 15 to 20 years. They may be spread by wind, water or anything that moves seed-infested soil. A witchweed plant can produce up to half a million seeds.

To germinate, a seed normally must be stimulated by secretions from roots of host plants.

When the witchweed seedling starts to grow, its roots must contact, attach to and penetrate the roots of a host. Otherwise, it dies.

After its roots penetrate roots of a host, the witchweed depends on the host for food and water until it emerges from the soil.

The shoot emerges from the soil about 30 days after germination. After emergence, the plant turns green and manufactures its own food but continues to depend partially on the host for water and minerals. Flowering begins about 30 days after the seedling emerges. The first flowers

Damage

Crop damage depends on the degree of infestation. When witchweed was first discovered in the Carolinas, corn yields in some infested fields were complete failures. Witchweed was observed parasitizing crabgrass in fields of tobacco, peanuts, beans, peas and sweet potatoes.

Appearance

Witchweed plants above ground are small and bright green. The leaves are slightly hairy and the upper and lower leaf surfaces look alike. The plants rarely grow more than 8 or 9 inches high. Some, however, may reach a height of 18 inches.

Control

Control witchweed by reducing the amount of witchweed seed in the soil. Stimulate germination of seed in the soil and destroy witchweed plants after they emerge from the soil but before they produce seed.

Some Good News

Population of overwintering boll weevils are down to about 50% of 1966. Even this percentage can give us real trouble so be on the alert and treat on first sight of this damaging parasite.

Wedding Account

Badly Mixed Up

We don't know who was responsible for the errors, but along the line somewhere a grand mess was made of the reporting of a simple wedding announcement. In an effort to get it straightened out at this late date we have recourse only to Mrs. Pitchford's letter in which errors were pointed out and corrections are made succinctly. —The Editor.

Several glaring errors appeared in the announcement of the marriage of Miss Sylvia McDowell of Warrenton to Mr. Waite Pitchford, Jr., as announced in the April 7 issue of The Warren Record. Somewhere between the donor of the information, its transmission to this office by Mrs. E. H. Weston, its editing in this office, and its composition into type in the mechanical department occurred an unbelievable misstatement of the actual facts of the marriage.

In a most charitable letter, certainly marked by unbelievable restraint, Mrs. Pitchford

appear near the base of the plant. Seed pods burst about 4 weeks after flowers appear.

Seeds scatter over the soil for the next month or so. Flowering and seed production continued until cold weather.

The life cycle of the parasite—from germination to release of first seeds—takes 90 to 120 days.

Witchweed grows best in warm temperatures and on light soils containing considerable moisture. It will, however, grow under a wide range of soil, temperature and moisture conditions.

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MRS. LOUISE RICHARDSON RECEIVES AWARD FROM LARRY BROWN

John Graham Graduate Honored

A John Graham High School graduate was recently awarded a high honor in the educational field at Jamestown where she is a teacher at Jamestown Junior High School.

Mrs. Louise H. Richardson was named the Outstanding Young Educator for the Jamestown School District for 1967. The award was presented during a faculty meeting by Larry V. Brown, chairman of the Outstanding Young Educator project for the Jamestown Jaycees.

A teacher of language arts and social studies, creative writing, typing and journalism, Mrs. Richardson represented the school district at a statewide event at Catawba College in Salisbury April 15.

Winner of the third annual OYE Award to be presented by the Jamestown Jaycees, Mrs. Richardson has been teaching in public schools of this area since 1959.

A graduate of the John Graham High School in Warrenton and of High Point College, where she received a B.S. degree in business administration, Mrs. Richardson expects

to complete work on her master's degree in business administration at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro this summer.

In a letter accompanying information of Mrs. Richardson, John Lawrence, Jamestown Junior High School principal, said that "In every respect, she is an outstanding young educator."

Lawrence said, "Many who have far more years of service are unable to bring the magic touch to every classroom situation that is always apparent when Mrs. Richardson leads the class." He said, "The business-like manner she has" results in "superb control of all her classes" and that "problems of class control are practically non-existent with her."

He said she "possesses great teaching strength" and that this strength includes quality of character and leadership ability and sound knowledge of subject matter and "tremendous capacity for hard work."

Mrs. Richardson is the former Miss Louise Harris of Macon, daughter of Mrs. Edna M. Harris and the late Charles Harris and is a sister of Jack Harris of Warrenton.

Check Funeral Is Held On Thursday

Funeral services for Mrs. Maria N. Cheek were conducted Thursday, at 4:00 p. m., at the Union Grove Baptist Church by the Rev. P. G. Davis. Burial was in the Hecks Grove Cemetery.

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Mrs. Richardson is the former Miss Louise Harris of Macon, daughter of Mrs. Edna M. Harris and the late Charles Harris and is a sister of Jack Harris of Warrenton.

Mrs. Cheek died at the Granville Hospital, Oxford, Sunday, April 30, after an extended illness. She was a long-time resident of Warren County, taught for several years, and was active in religious, civic and community affairs.

She was the daughter of the late Burrell Thornton and Mary Kearney Thornton of Warrenton.

She is survived by her husband, B. N. Cheek; four daughters, Mrs. Mary T. DeBernard and Mrs. Bettie C. Lee of Philadelphia, Pa., Mrs. Annie Y. Ephraim of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Mabel C. Nicholson of Portsmouth, Va.; six sons, Gordon L. Cheek of Newport News, Va., Byrd N. Cheek of Philadelphia, Pa., Nathaniel A. Cheek of Norfolk, Va., Everett B. Cheek and P. Cleon Cheek of Baltimore, Md., and Captain Julian E. Cheek, Fort Bliss, Texas; three sisters, Mrs. Mabel P. Falkener of Chicago, Ill., Mrs. Vera Williams and Mrs. Flossie Tonic of Montclair, N. J.; two brothers, Burnis H. Thornton of Durham, and Melrose Thornton of Dayton, Ohio, and 16 grandchildren.

Electric power generation in the United States has been doubling about every ten years—a rate of growth more than two times that of the Gross National Product. In 1966 total electric energy production was 1.25 trillion kilowatt-hours.

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UPON AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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TUESDAY THRU THURSDAY 9 A. M. TO 1:30 P. M.	FRIDAY 9 A. M. TO 1 P. M. AND 3 P. M. TO 6 P. M.
FRIDAY 9 A. M. TO 1:30 P. M. AND 3 P. M. TO 6 P. M.	SATURDAY CLOSED

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