



HERE'S PRIZE-WINNING FRANKLIN F. F. A. TEAM

Pictured above is the Franklin chapter's F. F. A. parliamentary procedure team, which recently won second place in district competition. Members are (L to R) Wayne Proffitt, advisor, Riley Henry, Jim Nolen, John Killian, Bud Shope, Ronald Harper, and Tex Corbin. (Staff Photo)



By BRYAN ANDERS
(Asst. County Agent)

Each year tobacco plant production in North Carolina is threatened by some type of plant bed diseases. The two diseases that we are concerned with in this area are Blue Mold and Anthracnose. Blue Mold is the older of these two important diseases, having occurred in the state every year since 1932. Anthracnose is relatively new to this area, having been discovered for the first time in 1951.

These diseases have cost tobacco

growers tremendous sums of money, in addition to the many problems they have created. A Blue Mold attack can cause such costly problems as transplant shortages, in five of the past 23 seasons. Blue Mold attacks were so severe that a serious shortage of plants resulted on many farms. Blue Mold can often delay transplanting, even when the attack is mild. Many growers have had poor stands as the results of Blue Mold.

Blue Mold is the most severe of the two diseases, so we will take it first and point out some of the characteristics of this disease. Blue Mold is easily recognized by the development of characteristic bluish, cottony mold on the underside of the diseased leaves. Generally, Blue Mold first appears in small areas scattered throughout the bed. The leaves of the infected plant are at first a lighter green color than the leaves of healthy plant. As this disease progresses the leaves will and finally appear to have been scalded. In the late stages the

leaves turn brown and appear burned. With attacks this severe a high percentage of the plants are killed.

Anthracnose has characteristic symptoms different from those of Blue Mold. Usually diseased plants are first observed in small areas over the bed. Small circular spots about 1/8 inch in diameter appear on the leaves. The spots gradually become larger, usually turning light brown to white in color. Severe attacks of Anthracnose cause nearly all leaves to become infected and a high percentage of the leaf tissue is killed, this causes the plants to become stunted. It can delay transplantings.

Both of these diseases are caused by a moldlike parasite known as fungi. These fungi reproduce by means of tiny spores, which are produced in very large numbers. The fungi causing this disease spreads very rapidly during damp, cool weather. Also excessively thick stands of plants in the beds should be avoided.

When it comes to control of these two diseases we are lucky that both Blue Mold and Anthracnose can be prevented by the same control methods. Effective disease control can be obtained by using fungicides containing either Ferbam, Zineb, or Maneb. The Zineb and Maneb fungicides have given slightly better control than Ferbam. The new Maneb fungicides have the advantage of being much cheaper. But they have the disadvantage of not being as safe to plants as the other two materials. Growers using Maneb fungicides should be sure to use only the recommended rates.

The following is the recommended information on use and rates of application of fungicides for the control of Blue Mold and Anthracnose.

Ferbam is the chemical name and three trade names under which Ferbam is sold are Fermate, Nu Leaf, and Ferrabow. Mix two pounds of either with fifty gallons of water, or if smaller amount is desired, use five level tablespoons per gallon. For dust treatment, use any of the three that has 15% of the Ferbam fungicides in the compound.

Zineb is the chemical name and two trade names under which Zineb is sold are Dithane 278 and Parazate. Mix 1 1/2 pounds of either with fifty gallons of water, or two and one half level tablespoons per gallon. For dust treatment, use either of the two and the compound should contain 10% of the Zineb fungicide.

Maneb is the chemical name

and two trade names under which Maneb is sold are, Dithane M-22 and Manzate. Mix 1/4 pound of either with fifty gallons of water, or one teaspoonful per gallon of water. For dust treatment, use either of the two, the dust should contain 2% of the Maneb fungicide.

The treatment for prevention of these diseases should start when the leaves are the size of a dime. These treatments should be put on twice a week until transplanting is completed. The fungicides can be applied without taking the canvas off the bed.

Thorough coverage of the plants is important; both sides of the leaves must be covered. For the small producer dust would be more suitable, however, it is more costly. In order to get proper application of sprays the spray should develop at least 100 pounds pressure and for small producers, it would not be advisable to buy a sprayer of this type; however, if you have a sprayer it can be used and will be cheaper.

We don't have the trouble with

Blue Mold and Anthracnose that some of the bigger tobacco producing counties have but you never know when it will start, so let's watch our plant beds and if it does start we can control it before it does much damage.

Witnesses Slated
Five Meetings

Five meetings are scheduled this week at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Tonight (Thursday) a theocratic ministry school will be at 7:30, followed by a service meeting at 8:30. Sunday, R. G. DeCelles will speak at 4 p.m. on "Identifying the True God", and a Bible study will follow. Tuesday night, at 8 o'clock, another Bible study is set.

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (usually called potash) are three chemical elements most likely to be deficient in most soils. They are referred to as the "primary" or "major" elements.



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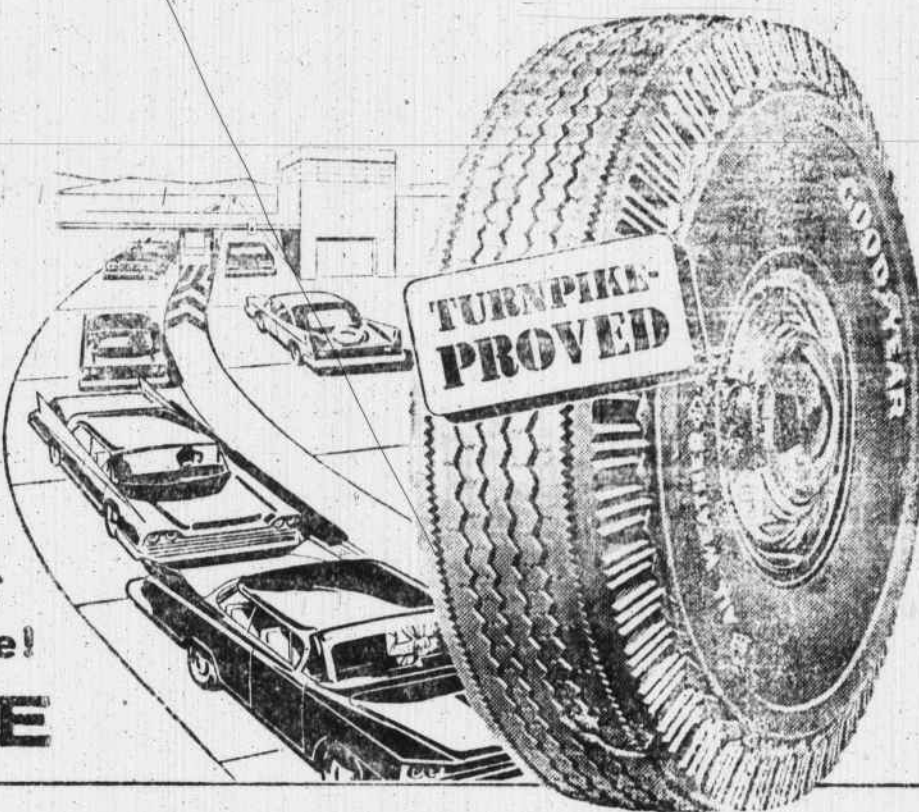
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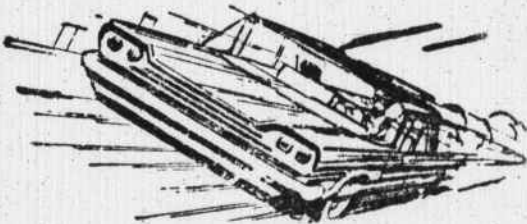
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