

Despite Opinion Of Many, Green Trees WILL Burn

By CARL B. DALTON
N. C. Division of Forestry

"It's green, it won't burn." Many times during the past summer I heard this comment. I have also seen this disproved during the last week—in fact, the past few years, I have seen it disproved many times.

Different people have offered different answers to the fact that green plant will burn, but of all these, I think the following is the most reasonable.

The next time that you are out in the fields or even in your front lawn, get down and look at the dead leaves and stems which are lying on the ground covered by the green plants above. A similar condition exists everywhere you find plants growing—be it in your front lawn or in your woodlot. Here is where the fire catches and begins. As the fire burns in this dead, dry material, the green leaves dry out and become good fuel for the fire. In other words, the fire creates fuel for itself as it burns.

Now someone will ask, "But how

is it that these leaves and stems can be so dry when the grass feels damp?" In answering this, I would like to call the readers' attention to a particular time of day—from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. If you are outside during this period of time, you will find a light, but steady, breeze blowing and the sun is beating down.

These two elements combined do a very good job of drying—in fact, ask any housewife and she will tell you that this is the best time of day for drying her wash. It is also the best time to start a forest fire by throwing a burning cigarette out of a window or by burning trash or by merely throwing down a hot match.

We, the members of the Department of Conservation and Development, Forestry Division, know that you do not want fires any more than we do. So we are asking that you remember the A.B.C. of fire prevention—Always Be Careful—and I might add especially with

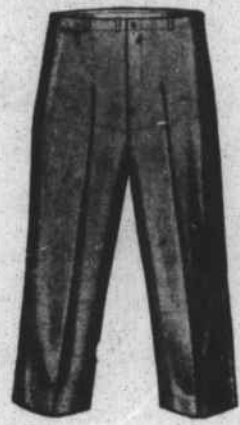


THESE TWO COWS look very sad because they see nothing to eat. Woodlands make poor pasture and often are a source of poisonous plants to eat.

Then too, notice the dry hard soil that water has a hard time penetrating and there are no seedlings for tomorrow's trees.

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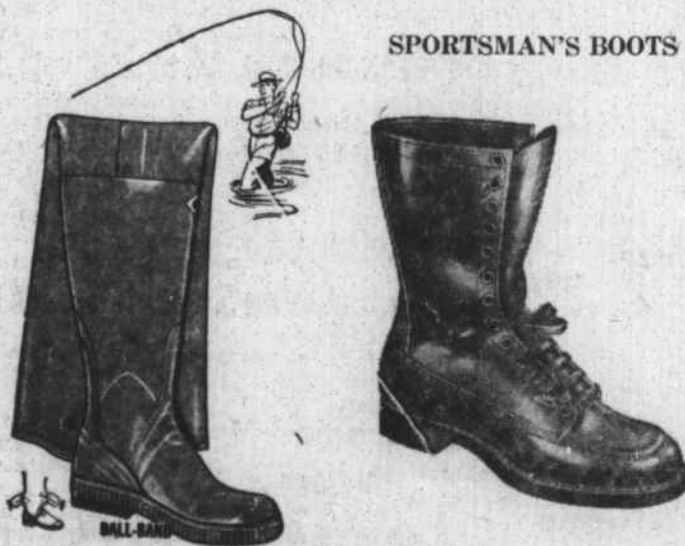
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Haywood Needs 16 Million Seedlings Planted Now

A report from TVA and State Forestry Services shows that 16 million seedlings are required in Haywood to do the proper job of reforestation.

The report shows that there are 17,500 acres in the county that need reforestation, with some 3,000 of these because of underplanting, and 5,000 under the land-use adjustment program, and 9,500 under the erosion control program.

Mountain Forest Research Carried On At Bent Creek

By JAMES F. RENSHAW
Forest Research Specialist
U. S. Forest Service

You CAN have your cake and eat it! So say research foresters at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest, near Asheville.

The location of the Bent Creek area is familiar to those travelling NC 191 south from West Asheville. It is operated by the United States Forest Service, a bureau of the Department of Agriculture.

All of the work in progress there is for the purpose of finding out how to manage woodlands to produce more and better timber in a way which will provide the greatest sustained income to the owner. Growing trees is of course considerably slower than growing other farm crops, but profitable returns are assured when comparable care is provided during their growth and development, and final harvest.

During the past 10 years one of the most interesting and useful projects at Bent Creek has been the management of farm woodland areas. Four small tracts comparable to many privately owned properties have been managed as though each was an integral part of the farm.

Using only the type of equipment which most farmers have available, and spending the approximate amount of time which many farmers could devote to woods

work the areas have received annual cutting. Only mature or over-mature trees were removed, excepting where stands were thinned to relieve crowding. Products removed included fuelwood, pulpwood, locust posts, tanbark, dogwood shuttle bolts, and sawtimber.

Careful records which were maintained from the start have shown that in addition to the stumpage value (value of the standing trees) a woodland owner can make from \$0.75 to more than \$2.00 per hour for his time spent in cutting and skidding the products to roadside. The return of course varies with the type of product and the quality of the timber being cut.

Since each cutting should be confined to mature trees, or trees that are poorly formed or defective it is obvious that the average quality and value of the timber which is left to grow will continually increase. Thus it is possible to obtain a very satisfactory income, and at the same time to leave the woods in a condition which will guarantee an even better income for the future.

Interested woodland owners or managers are always welcome to visit the Bent Creek area, to see at first hand the work which is in progress.

Farm mortgage debt increased in 1954 for the ninth successive year.

Home Builders Warned Against Green Lumber

The U. S. Forest Products Laboratory, recognized authority on lumber and lumber products, issues this note of warning to lumber specifiers and users:

"We have been building houses since our ancestors first landed in the country and have learned how to build better houses than they built, but we still have not learned how to build good houses out of unseasoned lumber."

Unseasoned lumber (also called green lumber) can cause serious shrinkage problems. On the other hand, properly seasoned lumber (dry lumber) assures stability of size, while the reduction of moisture content by air or kiln drying actually increases stiffness and strength. The seasoning process is regarded as so important that the Southern Pine Lumber Industry inserted a specific moisture content provision in its grading rules.



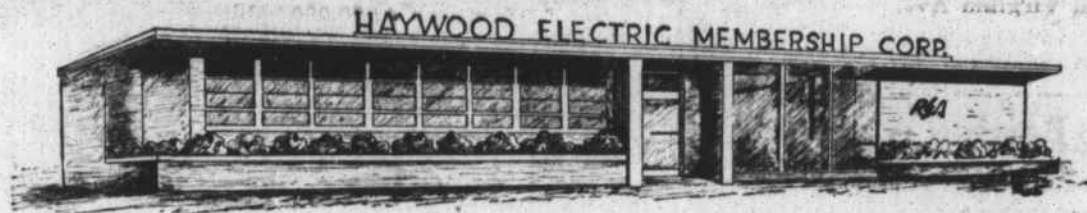
THE WOOD IN YOUR LIFE

Newspapers keep free people informed. Behind this week's headlines are the skills and talents of men and women who write and print America's 11,000 newspapers. Behind them stand our forests where trees are cut according to plan. With wise woodland management there will be plenty of wood to feed the nation's presses next month, next year or next century. Wood is a crop.

THE FIBER OF AMERICA



THE MOUNTAINEER



PROGRESS

— THROUGH TEAMWORK

Teamwork and progress go hand in hand . . . and cooperation among industries and business firms is just as important as between individuals. Realizing this, REA has long been an advocate of the practices fostered by the United States Forest Service and the program they sponsor for the conservation and development of our natural resources.

Americans are dependent on the products of our forests for many of the everyday conveniences we often take for granted. An overwhelming majority of our homes are built of wood or wood products . . . most of our paper is made from wood . . . the poles that carry electricity to our homes are products of our forests . . . in fact, it is almost impossible to think of any commodity or service that is not dependent in some manner on the products of America's forests.

It is just good business for us and you and every American to support our forestry program and help preserve this great natural resource for future generations. We can do this by exercising care as we enjoy the scenic beauty of our forest lands. We should be especially careful with matches and cigarettes because forest fires are a needless waste . . . a waste that you and we can prevent. Let's resolve now to keep North Carolina green.

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