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Specialist Discusses Care Of Spring - Flowering Bulbs

By ROBERT SCHMIDT
Should daffodils and tulips be taken up each year and when should this be done? This is a perennial question after the blooming season of spring-flowering bulbs is over.

It is best to take them up when the foliage has turned yellow and begun to die. While the foliage is green, the plant is storing food materials in the bulb for next year's bloom.

Tulips should be taken up and replanted at least every second year. In our climate the bulbs deteriorate quite rapidly and should be replaced by new ones if large flowers are desired.

Bearded iris (German iris) are blooming now and will be ready to divide and replant in about a month after the blooming period is over.

Baby Chicks Require Lot Of Attention

A day-old baby chick requires about as much attention of its caretaker as a newborn baby, according to W. G. Andrews, State College extension poultry specialist.

Andrews says that in order to set its best foot forward in life, a baby chick must be properly nourished, along with having many other comforts.

As he puts it, "We are growing the young orphans for either meat or egg production, and we can influence either of these courses favorably by placing a good starting mash before the baby chicks at all times.

Poultry nutritionists have worked long and hard to find the correct proportions of each ingredient. Producers shouldn't alter this balance by feeding additional grain in the form of cracked corn or other cracked grain, thereby unbalancing the ration, Andrews warns.

Andrews points out also that the poultryman can save money by avoiding wasting of the feed. He says the mash hopper shouldn't be filled more than two-thirds full.

According to reports on farmers' intentions as of March 1, flue-cured tobacco growers in North Carolina expect to plant a 1956 crop of 582,000 acres.

Want ads bring quick results

Ellerbe Farmer Opposed To Doing Things Half Way

S. B. T. Easterling of Ellerbe, Richmond County, doesn't believe in doing things half way.

He carries this philosophy right along with new enterprises. "If you plan to make money out of broilers, it is best to build a good house and raise a lot of birds," he says.

County Agent S. N. Shelton says that Easterling sold his first batch of birds recently. The "batch" consisted of 5,880 broilers that averaged 3 1/2 pounds in 10 weeks.

Shelton says that Easterling put 6,125 birds in a house that was constructed by State College recommendations. The house has automatic drinking fountains, ridge ventilators, thermostatically controlled heat, and electric lights.

Easterling says, "It costs a little more to build a house like I have, but it pays off by lowering the mortality rate, and facilitates the caring for the birds."

Shelton says that Easterling made some mistakes such as putting too much feed in the hoppers. But despite his mistakes, he managed to make a profit on his first batch. He says, "I'm in the poultry business to stay."

Wage rates paid by North Carolina farmers as of April 1, 1956, increased by around six per cent over wage rates paid the previous year.

North Carolina 1956 wheat production is forecast at over 8 1/2 million bushels as of April, 1956.



RAY DAVIS of Beaverdam is among the growing number of Haywood County farmers who has found it advantageous to install drain tile in his fields. Here Mr. Davis is shown putting tar paper on joints in a portion of the approximately 700 feet of line he put in.

Compost Pile Will Provide Organic Matter For Soil

By ROBERT SCHMIDT

The average home garden soil does not have sufficient organic matter in it to keep it in the best condition. A good way to obtain this organic matter is to build a compost pile. During the spring and summer there will be a lot of materials available for composting such as leaves, grass clippings, weeds, cornstalks and canning wastes.

Build the compost pile in a shady place. The sides should be vertical, the top should be slightly depressed in the center to retain rainfall. On each layer of plant material put a thin layer of garden soil (about one inch) and add a few handfuls of a complete garden fertilizer such as an 8-8-8 or 5-10-5. This will hasten the breakdown of the fibrous, coarse materials which have a low content of nitrogen and other plant nutrients.

require a readily available supply of nitrogen and mineral nutrients in order to rapidly break down the compost materials. If stable manure is available it will make a valuable addition to the compost.

As soon as the compost materials are well rotted they should be distributed and worked into the garden soil. The purpose of the compost is not to furnish the necessary fertility for growing garden crops but to supplement regular plant food applications as a source of organic matter for maintaining the physical condition of the soil.

Production of milk on North Carolina farms during March totalled 137 million pounds, the highest March output on record.



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Better Farm Plans Mean More Income

Better farm plans which fully utilize land, family labor, and other resources, could mean a much better living for farmers in the Piedmont area of North Carolina, according to D. G. Harwood, Jr., extension farm management and marketing specialist at N. C. State College.

He says that USDA economists, working in the area lying between the Coastal Plain and the Appalachian Mountains, report that farmers in this area aren't fully using their farm management ability.

The economists, for instance, found that many farmers were hiring too much labor in proportion to their farm income. This was a result of a farming system in which too much of the work came in one season.

By changing enterprise combinations on these farms, less labor would need to be hired, and the family labor could be utilized more nearly the year around, Harwood says.

Other adjustments could include better mechanization practices. Many farms have both mules and a tractor, and don't use either fully.

Harwood adds that with changes in the labor picture and better utilization of machinery, some of the idle land could be brought into production.

United States commercial hatcheries produced over 282 1/2 million chicks during March—12 per cent above the output of chicks in March last year.

A continued increase in the use of electricity on farms has resulted in a record high average monthly electric bill and a record low average cost per kilowatt hour paid by farmers.

Nothing Sells Like Newspapers

Farmers Urged To Check Tags On Seeds Carefully

Tar Heel farmers and dealers should check the seed tags of bean seed carefully to make sure that they are getting good seed with good germination, warns A. A. Banadyga, extension horticultural specialist at State College.

Banadyga says that last February, some Wade seed shipped into the state were not tagged properly. The seed were visibly injured and the Seed Testing Laboratory found a germination of only 62 per cent. Germination should be above 75 per cent with good seed.

Seed with many cracked seed-coats have usually been handled

roughly and should be avoided. Damaged seed will have a low germination count.

And even if injured seed do germinate, they usually produce weak, slow growing and low-yielding plants, Banadyga adds.

Smaller acreage allotments are expected to reduce the total acreage planted to all tobacco in North Carolina 72,000 acres, or 11 per cent.

Prospects for a record soybean acreage in 1956 point to another large supply of oilseed meal for the 1956-57 feeding season.

Advertisement for T.W. Wood & Sons seeds. Features the slogan 'BIGGER YIELDS WITH WOOD'S' and lists various seed types: PEAS, MILO, SUDAN GRASS, SORGHUM, EARLY WILT RESISTANT RAMSHORN PEAS, COMBINE MILO, SUDAN GRASS, SORGHUM, and MILLET. Includes the company name and address: T.W. WOOD & SONS, RICHMOND, VA.

Advertisement for Haywood Builders Supply Co. titled 'SMOOTH SAILING'. Promotes sanding machines for cabinets and offers a 40% discount on new cabinets.

Good Practices Prevent Breast Blisters On Poultry

Although there are no sure preventive measures against breast blisters on chickens, good management practices will keep this trouble to a minimum, according to R. S. Dearstyne of the State College poultry science department.

Breast blisters aren't uncommon among chickens, especially broilers or heavy breeds of layers. The abnormality is usually caused by a constant irritation of the area coming in contact with wire floors, unbeveled perches, or sharp objects.

Dearstyne says that one way to cut down on breast blisters is to raise the feed hoppers high enough

so that the birds have to stand to eat. Very often the poultryman wishes to teach the chickens to perch at an early age and installs temporary perches for this purpose. It's important that the edges of such perches be beveled so that no sharp edges exist. And the birds should be given a balanced diet so that hard bones and normal skin will develop.

The poultryman should use birds afflicted with breast blisters for home consumption. The processor usually rejects such birds anyway. However, Dearstyne emphasizes that a small blister in no way affects the food value of the meat

Large advertisement for Smoky Mountains Fertilizer Co. titled 'It Is More Necessary Than Ever To Make Your TOBACCO CROP TOP QUALITY and HIGH YIELD'. Promotes Blue Ridge Special Tobacco Plant Food and lists various fertilizer grades and prices.

Advertisement for Corn Growers! featuring 2,4-D Amine Weed Killer and 2,4-D Ester Weed Killer. Promotes a complete line of weed killers for lawn and garden use.

Advertisement for Purina Super Startena featuring a cartoon illustration of a chick and a group of people. Promotes the benefits of Super Startena for chick growth and includes a coupon for a 25% discount.

Advertisement for Farming equipment from the Farmers Federation. Features the Simplicity Rotary Tiller and the Robertson Power Mower, both available at a special price.