

Dogwoods are good choice for landscaping of homes

By Willie Featherstone, Jr.
Hoke Extension Chairman

The dogwood, no matter what color its flowers, is always a good choice for the home landscape, and planting time is the dormant season.

When grown as a lawn tree, the dogwood often reaches 12 to 15 feet in height and has a low, broad head and tiers of horizontal branches. The dogwood can be trained to have several trunks, making it a distinct landscape accent, somewhat like clump birch.

Dogwood adapts to various exposures and soil types. The most favorable soil is moist, fertile loam, slightly acid to neutral. You can improve the soil for dogwoods by mixing peat moss or leafmold with the soil in the planting hole.

Dogwoods also benefit from a mulch of leaves or other coarse organic material. This keeps the soil moist near the surface where its shallow root system is most active and protect the trunk from lawnmower damage.

The best time to transplant dogwood is in the fall and winter, although container-grown plants can be moved anytime. Nursery-grown trees that have been root pruned and grown in full sunlight are far superior to those transplanted from the woods.

Root prune at least a full season before moving. Root prune by spading just beneath the tips of outer branches to cut rangy roots. This causes the tree to form a more compact root system.

Often, while the tree is in a weakened condition after transplanting, insects called borers can cause damage. Borer damage can be reduced or prevented by wrapping the trunk with burlap or heavy paper strips.

Should rainfall be scant the first season, soak the soil around the dogwood once a week. Fertilize each year when growth has just begun in the spring. Use one pound of 8-8-8 fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter.

Preventing wood rot in homes

Warm, moist weather makes a lot of things grow faster. One that most people don't think about until it's too late is wood rot.

Most homeowners are quite familiar with termites and the damage they cause. However, wood rotting fungi are more likely to damage homes in Hoke County than termites.

Fungi can occur in any part of the house that stays moist, and especially in floors, door frames, porches, roof trim and decks.

To control rot, a person must get rid of the moisture and allow the wood to dry. Pressure treated wood should be used where moisture can't be eliminated, such as on a deck or fence. Spraying wood with preservative chemicals will not control rot when the wood stays moist.

Extension News

Rot commonly occurs when the crawl space under the house is poorly drained and ventilated. A lot of people don't realize the importance of the small vents around the house at ground level. They must be open from spring through fall, otherwise water can condense on the wood joists causing rot.

In addition to good ventilation, a plastic sheet placed on the soil is a relatively cheap and effective way of keeping moisture in the soil and out of the house.

Four mil polyethylene can be used to cover about 70% of the soil.

Check the plastic after a heavy rain to make sure that water doesn't drain on top of the plastic. If that happens, you may have at least one vent about every 15 feet around the house. Without the polyethylene, there should be a vent about every 8 feet.

The exact spacing depends on the size of the house and the free air space through the vents.

Many homeowners are installing automatic vents. According to N.C. State University specialists, these are a convenience because you don't have to worry about opening and closing the vents.

However, regular vents will do just as good a job providing they are opened.

Other suggestions are to keep gutters and downspouts clear, and have the house inspected at least once a year for plumbing leaks, evidence of rot, as well as for termites and other insects.

CHANGES IN TOBACCO PROGRAM

There have been three major amendments to the tobacco program within the last two years. The No Net Cost Tobacco Program of 1982 provided that price support activity be operated without cost to the taxpayer.

USDA was authorized to limit the change in supports to 65% of the formula increase. Also, voluntary sale of flue-cured quotas was permitted within county lines.

In mid-1983 amendments froze the support rate at the 1982 level and allowed greater discretion in the setting of burley quotas. With little time for farmers to adjust to these changes, the Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 was signed into law extending the freeze of supports and providing for major changes in rental arrangements.

A major point of debate leading to the 1982-83 amendments centered on the nature of demand for tobacco.

Most studies indicate that a change in price is not likely to alter cigarette consumption to the same degree.

Such inelastic demand might be expected to translate into higher farm prices when the quantity of U.S.-produced tobacco is

restricted through a government program. But, imported leaf can be partially substituted into domestic cigarettes. Also, a program of supply controls and price supports may be more limiting on volume of exports than on domestic use.

A second issue deals with financing the program. In the past, government loans on a nonrecourse basis were available to tobacco cooperatives to implement the price support system.

The federal government will not absorb losses on tobacco beginning with the 1982 crop. The limit on government outlays for tobacco is in sharp contrast to some other commodity programs that had record expenditures in 1983, e.g., the PIK programs for feed grains, wheat and cotton.

The short-run administrative choices under the "No Net Cost Tobacco Program" are limited: either quota size must be severely restricted in order to minimize Stabilization losses or farmers must incur increased assessments.

Another issue visible in recent legislation involves access to quota. Previously one interested in growing tobacco had to purchase farmland with an assigned quota or engage in a rental or leasing arrangement.

Authority for annual Lease-and-Transfer is scheduled to expire after 1986.

A new option is now authorized - i.e., to buy (or sell) quota, as a separate asset, within county lines. Consequently, potential buyers and sellers will be trying to assess the worth of quota.

The impact of recent amendments is to reduce long-run returns expected from quota. Since price supports are frozen (probably through 1985) and increased thereafter at less than the inflation rate, the margin above production costs are likely to narrow.

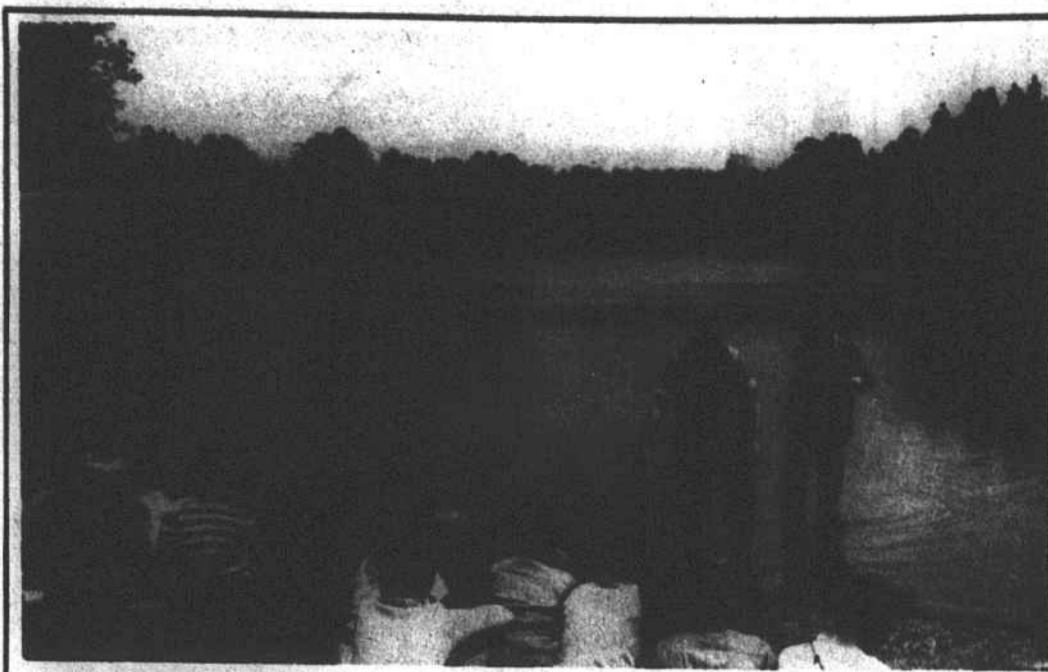
In contrast, the formula rate, which had been in effect from 1960 through 1981, essentially preserved the share of tobacco price going into rent by increasing price supports in direct proportion to changes in farm costs.

What implications can be drawn from recent amendments to the tobacco program?

•The commodity program will not provide as much price protection as in the past.

•Differences in the economic stake of various sectors of the tobacco industry (growers, quota-owners, farm supply and tobacco purchasers recently have become evident.

•All factors that affect the market for tobacco are not direct results of the commodity legislation for tobacco, e.g., the Smoking-and-Health controversy, increased cigarette taxes, and the recent strength of the U.S. dollar, are significant but independent events.



Talking about fish
Fishery biologist Lacy Nichols and assistant biologist Bobby Buff explain the types of fish found in Gatlin's Pond during an Environmental Field Day conducted for Hoke County students by the Hoke Soil and Water Conservation District. These

students joined approximately 450 others from the Turlington School during the two-day event to learn about everything from beekeeping to forest fire fighting.

Scraps putting dog off feed

DEAR DOCTOR: My dog has gotten to the point where he just won't eat regular dog food. I'm afraid I have spoiled him with table scraps to the point that he just refuses anything else. How can I get him to go back to dog food? Do I just let him starve until he eats what he is supposed to?

ANSWER: When a dog is allowed to eat table food for a period of time, it is often tough to get a regular diet re-established. There is no one answer to your question because pets vary in their response to foods. If you have tried to give only commercial food and he refuses to eat, try to mix a small portion of the dog food with the table food. Once he eats that mixture, try to slowly increase the amount of commercial food until that is the only food offered.

You must expect some rebellion. It probably will take a little time to make the change and perhaps he will go without eating for a time. Give him vitamin tablets during this period so that we know he is getting the essentials. Feed only the mixture of food described and stick with it. Don't give up because good quality commercial food is better than home-made diets in nutrition and ease of feeding.

DEAR DOCTOR: I don't want to have my dog spayed until it has had a litter of pups. What can I do to prevent the dog from coming into heat until I am ready for her to have a litter?

ANSWER: There are drugs available from your veterinarian that can stop your pet from coming into heat and being attractive to the males in the neighborhood. These drugs have very specific instructions for their use and should be given only as your veterinarian directs.

They have the effect of stopping the ovaries from producing the hormones that attract males and also stop the ovaries from releasing eggs. Most veterinarians suggest that they be used only on an intermittent basis. That is, don't keep your female on the drug for years without letting her body go through a normal cycle. The drugs permit you and your

You And Your Pet

pet to have a normal existence until you are ready for her to have a litter. After you are sure that you don't want your dog to have any more pups, have her neutered. Removal of the uterus and ovaries not only stops the heat but also makes certain that she will not develop serious uterus infections later in life when surgery is more likely to be life threatening.

DEAR DOCTOR: Why does my cat get tapeworms so often? My vet gives her a shot that is supposed to be very good, but a month or two later I see the little worm segments again.

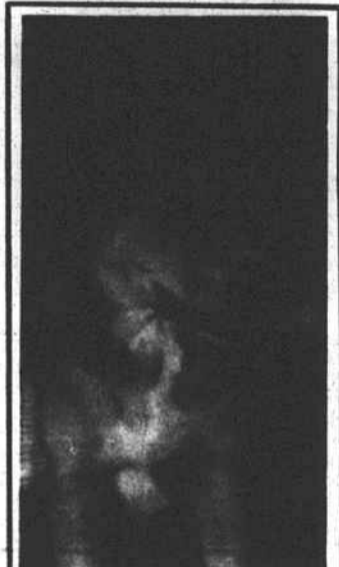
ANSWER: Tapeworms are acquired by dogs and cats in two main ways. First, they may get them from fleas and second, they may get them from catching and eating small rodents and rabbits. The type of tapeworm is different in the two cases, but the effect is the same.

The flea eats the tapeworm egg that has passed from the body of the cat or dog. The egg then develops partially in the body of the flea so that when the pet bites and eats the flea, the pet also gets a tapeworm. In small rodents such as ground squirrels, mice and rabbits, there are other types of tapeworms that are eaten when the dog or cat consumes the host.

Both types of worms can be effectively treated by your veterinarian using drugs we have had for only a few years. But, if your dog or cat has fleas or continues to hunt, your pet will get them again and again. Only by eliminating the fleas and controlling the hunting will your pet be permanently rid of the parasites.

Editor's Note: This column is provided as a service by the NORTH CAROLINA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. Do you have a question

about pet care? If so, send it to "YOU AND YOUR PET," P.O. Box 887, Smithfield, N.C. 27577.



Hey you, come here

Someone during your childhood once told you that dogs cannot talk. I'm here to tell you that, even though we may not have the gift of speech, we can tell you exactly what we want. We can think right up there with the best of them, and I think there is somebody out there that wants a good looking soul like me. I love people and most especially kids so why don't you climb into your automobile and come out to see me. I'm in the Raeford-Hoke County Pound, located at the landfill. Come check me out. P.S. There are a bunch of friends in here too.

LOOKING FOR A HORSE?
Why not adopt one?
Write: Bureau of Land Management
350 S. Pickett Street
Alexandria, VA 22304

June hire-the-vet month in county

June has been designated by the Department of Labor as "Hire a Vet Month" by the National Department of Labor (DOL), according to George Jones, local Job Service representative.

Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill has also signed a proclamation saying the same thing, said Jones.

The labor department is promoting an emergency job training program into which only veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars

can be admitted, Jones said.

These vets must have been unemployed for 15 of the last 20 weeks, he added.

The DOL will pay half the salary for training a disabled veteran for up to 15 months and up to \$10,000, Jones said.

For a non-disabled vet, DOL will pay half the salary for nine months, not to exceed \$10,000.

The DOL has set aside \$150 million for the program in

1984-85, he said.

According to Jones, salary money will be paid directly to the employer and Job Service will take care of the paper work to begin the program.

The size of the industry is of no matter as long as it is expanding and employment must be full time and not commissioned, said Jones.

Presently, The House of Raeford is the only local industry using the plan.

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