

Mulch reduces weeds

**By Willie Featherstone
County Extension Chairman**
A mulch will reduce your weeding time considerably. Most plants grow better where a mulch is used. Here are some questions and answers about mulches.

Q. What is the purpose of a mulch?
A. A mulch helps keep down weeds; keeps the soil cooler in summer and warmer in winter; helps prevent splash erosion; maintains organic matter; helps prevent soil packing and crusting; and best of all, conserves moisture.

Q. Is mulching practical?
A. On small areas, yes. On large areas it will depend on the value of the crop and the price of the mulching material used.

Extension News

Q. What materials can be used as a mulch?

A. Gravel, pine straw, leaves, peanut hulls, sawdust, corn cobs, aluminum foil, tobacco stems, straw (remove all grain), peat moss, paper, black plastic and many other materials are used. Coarse materials, like pine straw, don't pack down and don't keep air and water from penetrating to the plant roots.

Q. How deep should the mulch be applied?

A. Coarse materials such as pine straw can be applied 3 to 4 inches deep. Use 1/2 to 1-inch of materials that pack down. Keep a saucer-shaped area around the plant so water will drain toward the stem of the plant.

Q. When should mulches be removed?

A. Around permanent plantings they are usually not removed. Summer is when they are most needed. Fertilizer can be applied on top of organic mulches. In the vegetable garden, the mulch can be worked into the soil after the growing season.

Q. Will mulches rob soil of nitrogen?

A. To some extent, yes. Bacteria decompose organic matter and use nitrogen in the process. With limited nitrogen in the soil, the bacteria use it at the expense of growing plants. You can overcome this by adding extra nitrogen throughout the growing season. The nitrogen used by the bacteria will eventually be returned to the soil.

Q. Will peat, oak leaves, sawdust, etc. make the soil too acid?

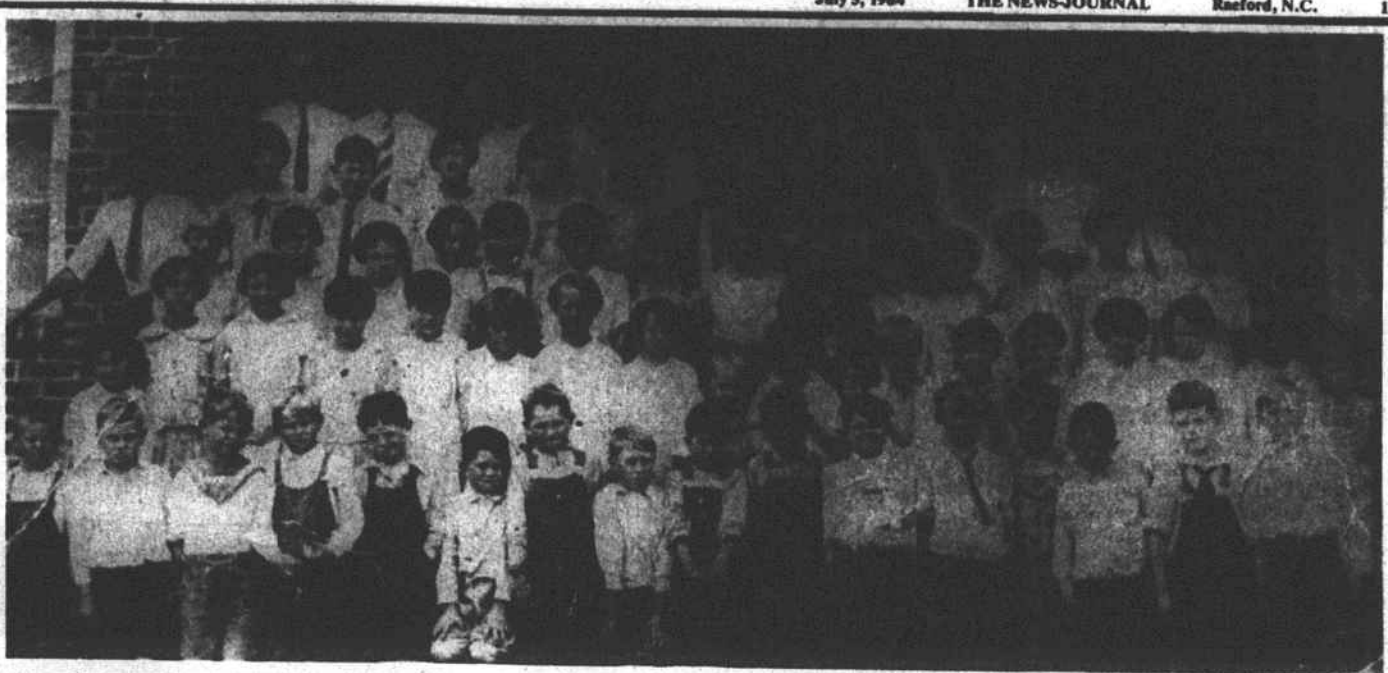
A. No. Not for a long time. Even very acid materials change the soil pH very little, unless used in large quantities and worked into the soil.

McRae assigned to Walter Reed

Army Spec. 5 Tyrone R. McRae, son of Emma L. Evans of Wright Street, Raeford, has arrived for duty at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

Changing jobs

Alice Pettitt will be taking over the duties of Home Economic Extension Agent Ellen Willis, who retired July 1, County Extension Chairman Willie Featherstone said. Pettitt has been in Hoke County with the Extension Service since 1981 and was in Wayne County for six years before coming here. Prior to assuming her new duties, Pettitt headed up the Hoke County 4-H program. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in home economics education from East Carolina University and a Masters Degree in adult education from North Carolina State University. A new extension agent will be hired to assume the 4-H program duties.



Don't breathe

Many of these students who attended the Blue Springs School (now Harrel's Antiques) in 1929 apparently found it difficult to smile while holding still for the camera. The school served grades one to seven. Shown here are: First row: Todd D. Russell, Everette Parks, Willey Russell, Alexander (C.) Smith, Robert Currie, James A. Smith, Hilton Clark, Make Sessoms, Raymond Baker, Gaddy Cook, Horace Cook, Irvin Currie, Rudolph Love, Wilson Yarborough. Second row: Nellie Baker, Mary Parks, Currie Smith, Flora Sessoms, Annie B. Blue, Viola Maxwell, Rosa Lee Taylor, Marie Wilkes, Hazel Parks, Marjorie Currie, Ruth Russell, Elizabeth Leach, Dorothy Pearson, Blanche Fletcher, Elizabeth Currie, Inez McBryde, Thelma Wilkes.

Mae Dawson. Third row: Rebecca Smith, Ina Mae Cook, Ruth Teal, Douglas Russell, Howard Clark, Curtis Baker, Norman Maxwell, Raswell Smith, Raymond Love, Ralph Parks, Ruth Matheson Warner, Glennia B. Blue, Mary Ann Currie. Fourth row: Lenard McBryde, Lillie Parks, Graham Clark, Myrtle Blue, Bessie Sessoms, Boger Maxwell, Carson Clippard, Curtis Baker, William Smith, Raymond Teal, Thomas Russell, Hartman Yarborough, Hughes Maxwell. Fifth row: Malcolm Walters, George Parks, Ray Walters, Mary Smith, Miss Mary McGirt, teacher, Miss Lettie McMillan, teacher, Mr. Harper, P.H. Wright, Vance Russell, Clyde Smith.

Even kitchen sink stolen from dwelling

By Ed Miller

An apparent robbery last week left owners of a vacant Hoke County dwelling without over \$6,000 worth of appliances and furnishings, including the kitchen sink.

W.E. Carter reported the alleged breaking, entering and larceny of the house of Hoses McDuffie on June 26, according to a Hoke County Sheriff's report.

Carter reported that a young man who mows the grass of the home reported that he found a storm window on the house broken and on the ground.

Upon entering the house, it was discovered that the hot water heater, a stove, a refrigerator, 15

cabinet doors and drawers, two chandeliers, a china cabinet, all the interior doors, a bath sink and light, a water pump, two storm doors and the kitchen sink had been taken, reports say.

As of Tuesday, no arrests had been made.

In an unrelated incident, on June 27, Julia Hennigan's house was reportedly broken into.

According to reports, her son saw a suspect enter the house and come out only to offer to sell the stolen items from the house to him.

Most of the items taken from the house was food; however, there was a hammer and a footlocker taken also.

The stolen items were recovered

in a field next to the house, reports say.

On another matter, Julie Liles reported the breaking and entering into a building containing musical equipment for a local band.

There was over \$5,000 worth of equipment taken from the building, reports say.

Found missing after the June 27 theft was a microphone and boom stand, two amplifiers totaling 1,500 watts, a 31 band graphic equalizer, an ARP synthesizer, 15 records and some other equipment.

Sheriff's deputies are investigating the matter.

In a further, apparently unrelated, matter, Kenneth Oxendine reported to sheriff's deputies

that Lowery Chapel had two 18,000 BTU air conditioners removed in a theft.

The apparent theft occurred on June 26, reports say.

Police Chief Leonard Wiggins reported that Vernon Hubbard had two rod and reel rigs taken from his truck sometime between June 29 and July 2.

Hubbard reported the loss at about \$250, Wiggins said.

The Fayetteville Observer reported the loss of a paper box from in front of the Job Service building on West Elwood.

The box was reportedly worth about \$150 and there was an estimated \$6 inside the machine, said Wiggins.

Making threats, stealing glasses land a two-years term for resident

By Ed Miller

Communicating threats and stealing a pair of \$6 sunglasses will cost a 25-year-old Raeford resident two years in jail, following action taken in District Court last week.

Nathan Buie was in district court Friday charged with threatening Helen Guin on February 16 and with taking a pair of sunglasses from Pope's Variety Store on February 23.

According to court records, Buie hit and scratched Raeford Police officer R. McNeill while the officer was trying to arrest the man on the shoplifting charges.

Assaulting an officer was combined with the other charges, and Buie was given two years in the Hoke County Jail by Judge Warren Pate, records say.

In another case, William D. Allen was also sentenced to two years in the Hoke County Jail for the apparent theft of a 1979 Chevrolet truck.

The Raeford resident was found guilty of the theft Friday.

The truck belonged to Jimmy N. Conoly of Raeford, records say.

Van Allen is to begin serving his term July 2, and it was ordered by the court that this sentence run concurrent with any other sentences pending against him.

In still further court action, Richard Harris of Raeford will be spending 30 days in Hoke County Jail at a time of his own choosing.

Harris was in court for the June 8 offense of assaulting Bonny Monroe by hitting her in the mouth, court records say.

The 18-year-old was originally given a suspended sentence and ordered to pay restitution; however, the defendant declined this and chose to take his jail term rather than pay the restitution, courthouse sources said.

A Scotland County man, Weldon Harris McKenzie, received a year in jail for reckless driving and driving with his license permanently revoked, records show.

McKenzie was arrested March 21 on the charges.

Courthouse sources say that McKenzie walked out of a Scotland County courtroom before he was sentenced for a crime there.

The sentence he received here is

to run concurrent with other sentences he may have, records say.

In an unrelated matter, Gene Eric Dukes received a year in Hoke Jail for breaking and entering and larceny on a Sunbeam Bread truck and for trespassing on the property of a Red Springs man, records show.

Dukes, 25, was arrested June 14 on the breaking and entering charges.

Joel Dean Carter, of Red Springs, also received a year in jail after he was sentenced in a driving while impaired (DWI) case.

Carter was arrested March 17 for DWI and driving while his license was revoked but resisted arrest, records say.

Carter, 20, will spend his year in the North Carolina Department of Corrections, records say.

A Raeford man was given two years supervised probation for attempted second degree rape and trespassing, records say.

Floyd Dupree was arrested May 26 on the charges.

Along with the probation, Dupree was fined \$500 and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$250 to the victim.

In three unrelated cases, three Raeford residents were sentenced in crimes dealing with the illegal sale of taxed alcohol.

Margaret Dixon was arrested May 4 after selling a cup of liquor and two beers to an ABC officer, records say.

Dixon was charged with possession of tax paid liquor for sale without a license and selling it, records say.

She was sentenced to two years unsupervised probation and fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$20

restitution to the Sheriff's drug fund.

David Grant Kelly, 51, was arrested May 5 for selling alcohol without a license and was given two years unsupervised probation and fined \$200.

Roscoe Kershaw, 46, was arrested June 15 on similar charges and was sentenced to two years unsupervised probation and fined \$75.

Tommie Barnes, of Red Springs, was arrested June 15 on his third offense of DWI; his second in seven years, records show.

Barnes got one year, suspended for one year, special supervised probation, a \$300 fine and seven days in Hoke County Jail.

Earnest Eugene Breeden, 40, was arrested June 16 while driving drunk and speeding with an expired license plate, records say.

The Laurel Hill resident was sentenced to three years supervised probation and fined \$350, records say.

Jerry Lomax, of Raeford, was arrested May 5 for DWI and driving without a license.

It was his third offense, Lomax got two years in jail, suspended for three years, special supervised probation, an active jail term of 14 days and a \$1,500 fine, say records.

According to court records, Lomax is to spend his jail time on four weekends and then seven consecutive days.

Keith Gillespie Lohr, of Cherryville, was arrested February 24 on DWI charges, records show.

The 35-year-old Lohr was given 120 days in jail, suspended for two years, unsupervised probation and a \$250 fine, records say.

... Around Town continued

(Continued from page 1)

than they thought would come from Raleigh. Still some members want to keep the upped tax rate. Who will win out, time will tell in the city. For the county, since the days of air conditioners, it is hard to get the men home from Raleigh when the pay is still coming in.

Anyway just remember that everyone will get a tax bill either this month or next.

It is good to see the unemployment figures coming down in Hoke County less than 10 percent.

Times have changed! In July you can watch football, basketball, baseball, track, tennis, etc. on your television. Games are not played in season anymore.

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