

It's Spring — Your Garden, Shrubs, Plants Need You!

By FLOY G. GARNER
Home Agent

Spring is here! This means of course that gardening time is with us, and this applies to our ornamentals and flowers as well as to our fruits and vegetables.

Plants have had a hard time this winter, so let's give them extra good care this spring. Here are some questions and answers from Mr. John H. Harris, extension horticulturist, that may help you.

Q. What can we do to help cold damaged plants?

A. Prune out girdled stems and obviously dead growth. Don't remove split stems that may heal over. Fertilize moderately, mulch, and keep moist.

Q. When do you fertilize trees and shrubs, and how much do you use?

A. Fertilize when growth starts with 2-4 pints of a garden fertilizer to each 100 square feet. Repeat during the summer if necessary. Plants growing in good soil may need no fertilizing. Use your judgment.

Q. When do you feed lawns and how much do you use?

A. Use a fertilizer such as 8-8-8 at the rate of 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet, when growth starts. Spread fertilizer evenly when the grass is dry. Follow with nitrogen in about three months if needed.

Q. What about bonemeal and cottonseed meal as a fertilizer?

A. All plants need some nitrogen and bonemeal contains little, if any, so use it as a supplement. It's good for iris since iris do best with low nitrogen. Cottonseed meal is about 7-2-2, rather expensive for the nutrients you get, but it does become available slowly and thus lasts a long time.

Q. Can camellias be pruned, if so, when?

A. Yes, prune lightly any time. If heavy pruning is necessary, do this immediately after flowering.

Q. What causes yellow spots and streaks in a lawn at this time of year?

A. More than likely an uneven distribution of fertilizer. In other words these yellow spots may indicate a lack of nitrogen. Apply nitrogen or a complete fertilizer.

Q. How do you get rid of weeds in a lawn?

A. Do four things: (1) have soil tested and apply lime if recommended. (2) Be sure you are trying to grow an adapted grass. (3) Fertilize as suggested above. (4) Spray with an amine form of 2,4-D. Follow the directions and precautions on the container.

Albert A. Banadyga, extension horticulturist, gives us the following information and suggestions to help us with our strawberries and vegetable gardening.

Your strawberries deserve special attention. Most areas of North Carolina will again produce fewer strawberries than we can use. Special care at this time of year may mean more fruit on your table and in your freezer.

Watch Out for Spring Frosts: Protection is available for your plants. Select a good site; land higher than other areas. When frost is predicted, take the mulch from between the rows and apply this over the plants. If the temperature rises the next morning, this material should be removed from the plants.

Apply heavy waxed paper three or four feet wide over the row

and remove the following morning. Irrigate the planting with a low nozzle. Start the water when frost is found on leaves in lowest part of planting, keep the water running as long as ice is on the plants.

Warning: Don't turn off the water while ice is on the plants; if you do, the blooms will freeze. If water is available, this is the most foolproof method; one report showed protection to about 24 degrees F. Either of these methods suggested will help in preventing frost damage to your strawberries.

Poor stands in the vegetable garden are caused by poor soil preparation, bad seed, insects, diseases, or fertilizer injury. Poor stands result in more grass or weeds and less yield.

Just a little added effort in preparing the soil can do wonders. Mix the fertilizer with the soil thoroughly to prevent fertilizer injury. Many small garden seeds are planted too deep. Plant most seeds 2 to 3 times as deep as the thickness of the seed. Lettuce seed, however, requires some light for germination and should be planted only deep enough to cover the seed.

Established asparagus plantings should be fertilized this month before the new shoots come through. Broadcast 2 to 3 pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer over each 100 square feet of row space and work it into the upper 3 or 4 inches of soil.

Hotcaps are good for starting early plants in the row, especially the warm season crops like cucumbers, cantaloupes and watermelons. Under hotcaps these vegetables are planted 2-3 weeks earlier than they are normally planted in the open. On bright sunny days these hotcaps must be ventilated to prevent heat injury to the tender plants.

To prevent caking or crusting and to conserve moisture a thin layer of sawdust mulch directly over seeded vegetables will hasten germination and improve stands.

Don't forget—your extension offices — the farm agent and the home agent are always ready to help you in any way they can. Telephone numbers: Farm Agent—Beaufort, 2-4381; Home Agent—Beaufort, 2-4011.

News from MERRIMON

March 19 — Miss Jean Carroll Pittman of Sacred Heart College spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Pittman. The Rev. Robert Poulk of Core Creek filled his regular appointment here Sunday morning.

Mrs. Emma Beacham who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Benson Bright of Merritt, has returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gaskill and children of Florida spent the weekend here with her parents, the Pittmans.

Mrs. James Robinson and children of Morehead City spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Carraway.

Mrs. J. M. Stallings visited Mrs. Thurmon Pittman Sunday afternoon.

Three Insurance Men To Attend Convention

D. A. Moore, staff manager for the Life and Casualty Insurance Co., Morehead City, has been notified that he, C. H. Willis and J. N. Jones have qualified for the company's annual convention to be held at Miami Beach, Fla., April 20 to 23.

The expense-free trip is awarded to top sales leaders as a result of their production records for the year 1957.

News from LENNOXVILLE

March 18—Mr. and Mrs. William Tickle Sr. of Bluefield, Va. arrived last week to spend some time with their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. William Tickle Jr. at West Beaufort.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Guthrie of Morehead City visited Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Willis Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. William Willis spent the weekend here with her mother, Mrs. Julia Pake.

Mrs. Charles Pake Jr. visited Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pake Sr. Saturday morning.

Mr. Herman Reid, Beaufort RFD, and Mrs. Al Biermann of West Beaufort visited Mrs. Dallas Willis last week.

Mr. Baker Lupton spent the weekend with his family at Suffolk, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Cassie Mann of Morehead City visited Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Lupton Sunday.

Mrs. Ella Pittman, who visited her daughters, Mrs. Clarence Rose at Vandemere and Mrs. Nancy

Barker at Oriental, returned home last week.

Mr. Guy Daniels made a business trip to New Bern the past weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Simpson visited relatives at Williston the past weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Willis and children visited relatives here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pilcher and daughter, Terena, Hancock Park, were visitors in the community, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Tickle and two children of West Beaufort and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tickle

Sr. visited Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Simpson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Willis and baby son, Jerry Jr. spent some time here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McIntosh and daughter, Eleanor, visited Mr. and Mrs. Fernie McIntosh at Marshallberg and Mr. and Mrs. A. Lawrence at Otway Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dickinson and daughters of Core Creek visited her mother, Mr. Sophia Lupton Sunday.

Livestock are processed and packed in more than 380 meat plants in Illinois.

Tuttle's Grove

March 19—The official board of Tuttle's Grove Methodist Church held its regular monthly meeting Friday night.

The 11 o'clock worship service at Tuttle's Grove was conducted by Mr. Chappel of Newport on Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Dudley and sons, Gulon and Craig, visited Mrs. Dudley's brother, Mr. Gray Wetherington, Sunday. Mr. Wetherington is a patient in a hospital in Tarboro.

The Misses Marilyn Merrill, Sue

Merrill and Shirley Norris spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Evelyn Jordan.

The regular meeting of the WSCS will meet with Mrs. Dollie Dudley on Thursday night. The first session of the study course, "Cross and Crisis in Japan" will be presented by Mrs. B. A. Phelps and Mrs. Graydon Jordan. The second session will be given on the following Friday night after the prayer service.

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