

## Tips for keeping your garden in shape for the summer

First quarter of the moon today.



Feed hollies with a light dressing of 8-8-8 fertilizer. They are tired after producing berries. You would be too.

Bruise a few leaves on each tomato plant. A hormone will be activated that gives sucking insects fatal indigestion.

Pinch chrysanthemums for the last time. Plants will be bushier and more productive.

Iris beds may be renewed now

by carefully digging up old plants, leaving the tops intact. I find a spading fork indispensable for this job. Remove old woody portions of the roots. Reset the remaining good tubers in a shallow bed. Cut leaves back to about five inches, water well. Give yourself a swift kick for forgetting (for the third year in a row) to mark iris when they were blooming so you'd know exactly which ones you wanted to propagate.

Plant some more snap beans and tomato suckers.

Buy seeds or plants of beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts and rutabagas. The seeds can be shown in a little out-of-the-way spot and transplanted to a permanent home in August.

A little DAP will do it. That's right — this popular tub sealer is perfect for treating pruning cuts. The white color reflects the sun's

heat and does not get soft in hot weather.

Here's a trick for gardeners with poor eyesight. Avoid eye or facial injuries, when your mistakenly lean over a garden stake, by padding it. Cut the foot off a stocking and stuff it with the rest of the stocking material. Pack the foot firmly around the top of the stake and bind the resulting ball with white fabric tape.

Potatoes are more nutritious when baked rather than sliced and fried. For heaven's sake don't leave the delicious skin for the compost pile — the skin is where the protein is.

Check out your fall catalogs and order these drought-resistant perennials: Armerea alba, white thrift; Artemesia, silver mound; Coreopsis; Erygium maritimum, Sea holly; Gaillardia, blanket flower;

Kniphofia, red-hot poker; Salvia ozurea, blue salvia; Yucca smalliana, Adam needle.

What else is important for this week? Ah, yes, one last thing. Japanese serows, an endangered species of goat-antelope, eat camellia bushes as a regular part of their diets. Of course, if you have your own pet serow you know all this.

Horticulturist Jim Park at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, Escondido, California, is busy collecting camellias for his two serows, who eat first the flowers, one at a time, and then the whole bush.

Help Jim out. Send him all your used camellia plants, species 'Debutant' preferred. You will then be entitled to a complimentary lunch. Yes, indeed, you will munch along with Sylvester and Cerise Serow on fine fresh raw veggies, alfalfa pellets, and unlimited camellias. It's a fun afternoon. The main problem is trying to chew gracefully while 2,000 visitors are staring at you across the

moat. Especially when some kid hollers, "Hey, which one's the serows?"

### HOW TO CHANGE YOUR SOIL pH

Changing pH from	to	Per Square Foot Add
4	5	3 teas lime
5	6	3 teas lime
6	7	3 teas lime
5	4	1 teas aluminum sulphate
6	5	1 teas aluminum sulphate
7	6	1 teas aluminum sulphate

•Gurney Nursery

## Local program aids farmers

Area farmers and Belvidere Farmers' Exchange are participating in a new program to promote development of better markets for farm products.

The program, called V. O. T. E. (for Velsicol's Operation Trade Expansion), is underwritten by Velsicol Chemical Corporation. Under the terms of the program, Velsicol is donating 50 cents for every gallon of their herbicides sold to

one of six farm commodity organizations which will spend the funds on market development projects.

In order for the funds to be donated, area farmers and ranchers must cast ballots at Belvidere Farmers' Exchange when they purchase Velsicol herbicides between October 1983 and September 1984. Velsicol herbicides included in the program are Banvel, Banvel II, Weedmaster, MonDak and

Carbyne.

The six producer-supported organizations receiving funds from V. O. T. E. are: American Dairy Association, Cotton Incorporated, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Cattlemen's Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Pork Producers Council.

The total contributions Velsicol makes half of each farmer who V. O. T. E. s could reach well in excess of a half million dollars if all Velsicol herbicide purchasers cast a ballot. The company has put no limit on the total amount of V. O. T. E. dollars they are willing to contribute.

American Dairy Association will allocate funds raised through V. O. T. E. to promote milk and other real dairy foods to the food service and restaurant industry. Cotton Incorporated funds will underwrite a major trade and consumer promotion which will dramatize benefits of cotton over similar products made from synthetic fibers.

V. O. T. E. funds designed to the National Association of Wheat Growers will help build domestic and international demand for U. S. wheat. A booklet titled "Myths and Facts about Beef" will be produced by the National Cattlemen's Association with V. O. T. E. dollars to help clear up misconceptions about beef and beef production.

National Corn Growers Association funds will be directed to NCGA's planned Corn Domestic Development Center and its initial goal of increasing corn use for fuel alcohol. The National Pork Council will use V. O. T. E. monies as part of their continuing Consumer Education Program.

## Good management is the key to survival

BY JOHN SLEDGE  
N. C. Farm Bureau Federation  
Talk to any farm economist and he will tell you that risk management is the key to farmers, especially young farmers, surviving the 1980s.

Farmers are in the risk management business. A well-known farm economist once said that where there is no risk there is no profit and there is no return to management because there is nothing to manage.

When farmers sink a small fortune into their spring crops, they're risking a financial disaster if a crop failure occurs. Ten or 15 years ago when production expenses were lowered and therefore less risk, farmers didn't need to worry so much about a financial disaster. Today, many are being forced into risk management by their

bankers.

When they go to the bank for a loan, more than likely they will be told to take out crop insurance or utilize forward contracting and hedging to assure at least a break even, if not a profitable price.

USDA's guaranteed farmers disaster payments are a thing of the past. Crop insurance is now considered the solution to coping with crop failures.

Farmers, like all businessmen today, can't afford to blindly spin the wheel of fortune and expect to survive. Farmers must be more flexible by diversifying into several commodities, spreading the risk out.

Without proper risk management, farmers will find it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to show a profit.

## N.C. unemployment showed decrease

RALEIGH — Unemployment in North Carolina decreased to its lowest level in more than four years from mid-April to mid-May, according to figures released by the North Carolina Security Commission (ESC). Unemployment rates decreased in 76 counties and increased in 18. Ninety counties showed single-digit unemployment rates, while ten were in the double-digit category. The state's total unadjusted rate for May was 5.8 percent. The national unadjusted rate to which state rates are compared was 7.2 percent.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates were Wake, 2.9 percent in May down from 3.1 percent in April; Durham, 3.3 percent down from 3.5 percent; Currituck, 3.7 percent down from 5.2 percent; Gates up slightly to 3.4 percent from 3.3 percent; and Orange up 3.6 percent from 3.5.

The unemployment rate for Perquimans County in May, 1984, was 4.3 percent

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## Fanfaire set for July 13

Fanfaire: An Elizabethan Festival is being sponsored by the Museum of the Albemarle, on July 14, 1984 at Charles Creek Park, in Elizabeth City. The festival will recreate an Elizabethan marketplace in 16th century England and is being held in conjunction with the 400th anniversary of the Roanoke Voyages.

The noises of this period of history were raucous. The streets were full of bawling apprentices, shopkeepers, and serving men, while angry carters engaged in heated discussions. On marketday, men and women would flock to the market to sell their wares. Women could be found washing and mending clothes on the bank of a nearby stream of river, while actors might entertain the crowds, in

the streets, with their talents.

There are still a few openings for persons interested in participating as one of these (or many other) characters at Fanfaire. If you would like to become a part of this festival, call Buddy Sheely at the Museum at 335-1453 or 335-2987

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