

Corn Alphabet Is The "Key" To Farmer's Seed Choice For '71

North Carolina corn growers must add a new word to their vocabulary and bone up on their NBT's in order to make the best seed selection for 1971.

The new word is cytoplasm. It's not really new, but in the past it's been fairly well confined to use by plant breeders and agricultural scientists — and of very little interest to farmers.

But in 1971, because of the corn blight and the close relationship of the disease to Texas male sterile cytoplasm, the word will be critically important to the entire corn industry, including farmers.

Corn grown from seed produced by the use of the Texas male sterile, or T cytoplasm, was shown to be highly susceptible to blight last season. The N in the corn alphabet stands of normal cytoplasm. The B stands for blend, meaning mixed seeds, some containing T cytoplasm and some containing N cytoplasm.

North Carolina State University corn specialists A. D. Stuart and S. J. Hodges are urging farmers to select seed for 1971 on the basis of content of N cytoplasm. This corn showed tolerance to blight in 1970 and offers the best chance of avoiding the disease in 1971.

The N. C. Department of Agriculture recently adopted a regulation that will require 1971 corn seed to be labeled to show the percent of N and T cytoplasm.

Hodges and Stuart commented that, as a general rule of thumb, growers could assume that the higher the N percentage, the higher the degree of blight tolerance the seed will have based on 1970 observations. The 100 percent normal cytoplasm seed would be safest. Unfortunately, the supply of these seed is limited.

This will mean farmers are likely to be selecting from blends of N and T corn and, in some cases, second generation of F-2 corn seed from a hybrid.

The F-2 seed cannot be offered for sale in North Carolina as a named hybrid. They can be labeled, "corn — variety not stated" and these words written in brackets or parenthesis: "F-2 from X variety." The percent N and T must be shown.

Stuart and Hodges explained that growers will be losing the extra vigor of a hybrid by planting second generation seed.

However, where these seed have been selected from normal cytoplasm plants that produced well under blight conditions in 1970, they may offer more potential than a T variety or a blend high in T cytoplasm content.

Agronomists figure that roughly 20 percent of the yield potential is lost when second generation seed are planted from a double cross hybrid. If the seed were saved from a single cross hybrid,

the potential loss would be 30 percent or more.

These estimated losses do not include any loss that might result from blight or other causes.

Risks of further reduction in potential yield are cited in cases where farmers use F-2 seed from a crop planted last year to a hybrid blend.

If the 1970 blend was 50 percent and 50 percent Texas cytoplasm, for example, the F-2 seed would be of the same percentage. This means half of the plants in the 1971 F-2 planting would have T cytoplasm and therefore be susceptible to blight. This potential loss would be in addition to that expected from having used F-2 seed to begin with. The total yield reduction potential in this case could be 70 percent or more.

The NCSU agronomists believe that farmers using F-2 seed should pay careful attention to whether the seed were saved from a 100 percent normal cytoplasm hybrid or a blend.

They are also urging farmers to contact their regular seed suppliers early and order the best seed available. "Best" in this case is regarded as those seed highest in N cytoplasm.

Hodges and Stuart suggested that growers read the seed tags and keep one from each variety as a record. Keeping a small sample of the seed — about a half cupful in a sealed container — may also be helpful for future comparison. It is also important, the specialists said, to keep a record of what variety is planted in each field.

Witnesses Set Conference

David G. Thomas and Judson H. Shawver, Jr., officials of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, will be leaders of the semi-annual Bible conference in Gastonia December 18-20, at Hunter Huss High School.

Some 800 delegates are expected to attend the three-day conference, with peak attendance on Sunday.

Thomas, district supervisor of Jehovah's Witnesses in the southeastern part of the United States, will be the featured speaker. He is presently supervising the activities of over 10,000 ministers in the Carolinas, Tennessee and northern Georgia.

Shawver, assistant chairman for the event, has been a circuit supervisor of Jehovah's Witnesses since 1964. He directs the activities of the 16 congregations to be presented this weekend in Gastonia.

Climaxing the conference will be Thomas' public address, "Who Will Conquer the World in the 1970's?", to be given at 2 p.m., Sunday, December 20, in the auditorium of Hunter Huss High School.

Jehovah's Witnesses will be visiting Gastonia residents to invite them to attend the Bible conference.

Diets may be just the thing to avoid heart disease, but see your doctor for the proper one, says the North Carolina Heart Association.

Cotton Harvest At 97 Percent Completion

Cotton harvest reached the 97 percent completed mark last week, prices were generally unchanged and market activity increased moderately, according to E. M. Stallings, Extension Economist at North Carolina State University.

"Ginner prices to producers varied from 20 1/2¢ in run to 150 and 200 points per pound. Most growers were receiving 24¢ per pound for SLM, 22-23¢ for LM, 21-22¢ for SGO plus, and 20-21¢ for SGO," said Stallings. "For the harvest period overall, the N. C. market has been steady with prices increasing slightly and cotton moving into trade channels in an orderly manner. The national crop moved to market very slowly, but the N. C. crop moved rapidly and has been of very high quality."

E. C. Hanson of the Raleigh Cotton Classing Office reports that 140-876 bale samples had been classed through Friday, December 4, and an additional 3,000 were on hand bringing the total

received to almost 144,000. For the season to date 90 percent classed White and 6 percent Light Spotted. The most prevalent grade was SLM for 34 percent, followed by LM for 33 percent, SGO plus and lower for 12 percent, and MID for 6 percent. 84 percent of all samples measured 1 1/16 inches or longer staple and 91 percent had desirable fineness of fibers. Compared to seven other Southeast cotton areas, N. C. cotton has the greatest percent White and the highest percent with 1 1/16 inches or longer staple.

Stallings states that nationally the carry-over supply on August 1 was a low 5.8 million bales. The November 1 production estimate of 10.4 million bales, domestic use of 8.0 and export of 3.2 million bales indicate a decrease in carry-over to 5.0 million on August 1, 1971. Foreign cotton supplies are expected to be down slightly for 1970-71 due to smaller beginning stocks, slightly lower production and some increase in consumption.

"The N. C. crop is the best in 5 years and on November 1 was estimated at 145,000 bales from an excellent yield of 422 pounds of lint per acre though 150,000 bales appears to be a better estimate at this time," says Stallings.

Plan Early For Traveling With Children

RALEIGH — Traveling with young children isn't so hectic if you make preparations for entertaining them on the way.

Therefore, Mrs. Faye Haywood, extension family relations specialist, North Carolina State University, suggests you let the children help you pack a "play case."

This, she says, can be a doll suitcase, carry-all zipper bag, or a cardboard box. Or, if you wish, you might place all items in the pockets of a closet shoe holder.

"Overall we have had a relatively good cotton year in North Carolina, partially due to a very low boll weevil survival last winter following the below zero temperatures. Then the crop was planted on time and there were excellent stands over the state. A fairly good insect control program was followed and the weather overall was good. Good yields and favorable prices have followed. This fall to close out the season on a good note."

and attach it to the back of the front seat.

For the "play case," select several small toys the children enjoy; such as a truck, car, doll and blanket or stuffed animals. Then add some favorite books, and creative materials, such as a pack of scrap paper, a pair of blunt end scissors, and a box of crayons to help while away the miles.

A batch of colored pipe cleaners might keep children busy for a while and puppets of all kinds are good mind-occupiers, too.

Try a magnet on a string and paper fish with paper clip mouths to catch.

If your trip will cover several days, you may wish to wrap surprise packages for the children to open at a particular time each day or when they reach certain circled places on the map.

Also, brush up on your songs and add story telling to your list of activities. Guessing games and searching games are other ways to relieve monotony.

Look for certain items or colors by the roadside. Or, if your children have learned the alphabet, have them look for a sign with a word beginning with the letter a, then b, and so on to z.

As you plan your holidays or vacation travel, plan on-the-road activities for the children, Mrs.

Local Alumni Earn Award

DUE WEST, S. C. — The Kings Mountain Chapter of the Erskine College Alumni Association was one of nine Erskine alumni chapters to surpass 95 percent participation in the 1970-71 Erskine Living Endowment Campaign on Homecoming Day December 5.

Haywood concludes. It could mean a more "restful" trip for you.

The chapter earned an additional \$100 challenge gift for the campaign by its accomplishment. Dr. and Mrs. John McGill of Kings Mountain are chapter chairmen. The Erskine Alumni Association presented a special certificate to the Kings Mountain Chapter for its accomplishment on Homecoming.

The Living Endowment, which has earned Erskine seven national alumni awards in the past ten years, has thus far received \$142,000 from 3,300 alumni and 555 non-alumni friends of the college.

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 - LEGS . . . 35¢
 - THIGHS . . . 39¢
 - QUARTERS . . . 59¢
 - LEG QTRS. . . 35¢
 - BONELESS THIGHS . . . 49¢

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