

Apple Trees Good Choice For Home

If you get the tree-planting "bug" this winter, try an apple tree or two in the back side yard. They're attractive as a landscape plant and produce food as well. The planting season in North Carolina runs from around Thanksgiving to late February, so now is the ideal time to start selecting the variety you want and locating planting stock.

to find. Varieties such as Horse Apple, Grimes Golden, Virginia Beauty, Limbertwig, Mattamuskeet and even Staymen and Jonathan aren't stocked by all nurseries. However, they can be located by shopping around, according to Mel Kolbe, North Carolina State University extension horticulturist.

Some of the common varieties are Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, and Winesap among others. When selecting a variety, keep pollination in mind. Some varieties, such as Red Delicious, won't pollinate themselves and must have a pollinator nearby. Others, such as Staymen and Winesap, are pollensterile. That is, they neither pollinate themselves or

other trees. Golden Delicious, on the other hand, is a self-pollinator and will produce pollen to pollinate other varieties. It is a good choice for the amateur gardener, Kolbe believes.

Space limitations should be considered in selecting root stock. You can probably buy the variety you want on different root stocks, such as EM IX (East Malling), which will produce a small tree—around five feet. A tree of this root stock will have to be put on wires or staked. In a small yard along the back fence would be a likely place to plant.

EM VII will produce a plant about seven feet tall and may or may not have to be supported. MM or Double M—Malling Merton—root stock produces a seven to eight-foot tree. It may be the amateur gardener's best choice.

Kolbe said apple trees can be grown in most kinds of soils, but avoid low, poorly drained places or deep sandy spots that dry out quickly.

The specialist said soil testing is important. The tests should be made and the site prepared well in advance of planting.

Nurseries usually start digging trees after all leaves have fallen around late November. But most of them will accept orders earlier than this and ship later.

Kolbe cautioned against buying trees that are too large. "The best size to buy is a four to five-foot whip," he said. "When you get them, soak the roots in water for at least 24 hours before planting," he added.

Apple tree owners can anticipate insect and disease problems. The further east the trees are located, the worst the problems are likely to be.

The U. S. is expected to export 350 million bushels of soybeans this year, compared to 480 million bushels last year.

Washington Report

By CONGRESSMAN
JAMES T. BROYHILL

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASE

Last week, the House of Representatives passed a Social Security benefit increase by a vote of 331 to 20. This legislation, when signed into law, will accomplish two major purposes. First, it establishes a two-step increase in Social Security benefits. Second, it was designed to increase the actuarial soundness of the overall Social Security program.

I voted yes on this legislation. While I had certain reservations about increasing benefits at a time when questions have been raised about the stability of the Social Security trust fund, it seems apparent to me that we cannot place an unduly harsh burden on the nation's senior citizens. They have put their hard earnings into the Social Security program over the years in the expectation of reasonable security in their later years. Unfortunately, the heavy inflation of the summer and early fall months has shattered these dreams. For example, from July through September, the Consumer Price Index rose at a yearly rate of 11 per cent. And most important to those on fixed incomes, the cost of food increased at a yearly rate of 29 per cent. The burden of these increases put a simply intolerable strain on the budgets of the elderly and the retired.

Under legislation passed in the last Congress, Social Security recipients would receive an increase in benefits based on a cost-of-living escalation clause in January of 1975. Earlier this year, it became apparent that the unex-

pectedly high rate of inflation necessitated a movement forward of the date for increase in benefits. We passed in July a 5.9 per cent increase effective for June 1974. The inflation rate since July quickly made it apparent that this projected increase would also be unsatisfactory. The legislation we just passed substitutes for this measure a 7 per cent increase in benefit levels for March 1974 and a final increase of another 4 per cent in June 1974. If this measure passes the Senate and is signed into law by the president, these increases will be reflected in checks arriving in April 1974 and July 1974.

In addition to these benefits changes, the Ways and Means

committee recommends changes in the financing of the Social Security system to improve the long-range stability and soundness of the trust fund. The bill which was passed as recommended by Committee extends the base pay subject to the Social Security tax from \$12,600 to \$13,200 in January 1974; \$14,100 in 1975; \$15,000 in 1976; and \$15,900 in 1977. The bill also instructs the Advisory Council on Social Security to review alternative and improved suggestions for Social Security financing.

I will strongly encourage the Advisory Council to begin these studies. The costs of inflation have made it imperative that we act to increase Social Security benefits for those who depend on it for their source of income. However, we must assure that the long-range integrity of the Social Security fund is protected.



By M. E. GARDNER
N. C. State University

During the 17 years that I have written this column, I have dodged the subject of herbicides (weed killers). I have done this intentionally because it is not possible to make general recommendations. You must know the specific weed (s) to be controlled otherwise, you confuse your readers and may cause severe injury to nearby plants in the garden or landscape.

The reason for this is that some herbicides are selective while others are non-selective. For example, 2, 4-D will control broad-leaved weeds in the lawn but, if you are not careful, the drift particles from the spray will damage your roses, other ornamental plants and grapes. It may even kill them if the drift is heavy enough and the wind is blowing. Here we have a chemical that is selective for broad-leaved weeds in the lawn but non-selective for roses, etc. The material, of course, does not injure the grass if properly mixed and applied.

This sounds complicated and it is just that. We could mention Silvex, Paraquat and some of the other chemicals and really tie you in a chemically oriented academic knot.

Now, something is being done about the problem which may possibly result in fewer herbicides being made available for

home owners. The reason is impending government regulations aimed at restricting herbicides because of public fear and misuse of the many materials available in the herbicides arsenal.

This trend toward tighter controls of herbicides for home gardens and homeowners should lead to: fewer broad spectrum or long lasting materials; label clearance against only a single or limited number of weeds; the banning of herbicides marketed in spray cans; and more stringent and uniform license requirements for individuals or companies engaged in the commercial application of herbicides for weed control.

When you use any of the weed killers, seek advice from a competent source, your county agent. If, on your own, you use them be sure to Read the Instructions; and observe all precautions. Otherwise, you will be disappointed with your weed control program and may kill some plants that you value very highly.

FERTILIZER

A good rule of thumb in fertilizing tobacco plant beds, according to North Carolina State University extension specialists, is 50 to 75 pounds of 12-6-6 fertilizer per 100 square yards. This is equivalent to 2,400 to 3,600 pounds per acre.

NEW PATTERNS

Major pattern companies that used to concentrate on clothes now are offering home furnishings patterns. They can show you how to make draperies, curtains, bedspreads and tablecloths, furniture covers, pillows and placemats, says Mrs. Edith McGlamery, extension house furnishings specialist, North Carolina State University.

CAPTAIN EYE

For lounging or formal wear, create a fashionable, comfortable saffron. If the design is full, select a soft, draping fabric, advise Harriet Tutterow, extension clothing specialist, North Carolina State University. If the pattern is somewhat fitted, choose a firmly woven or knit fabric with enough body so the garment will hold its shape.

One HOUR

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Conservation: Raw Materials And Energy

There really is an energy crisis and a raw materials crunch.

As winter approaches and the reality of both crises becomes more and more apparent, we want you to know that the personnel of the Shelby Plant of Fiber Industries are doing something about both.

Our processes and the 3,000-plus jobs they involve require large amounts of electricity, natural gas and fuel oil — energy!

Our polyester and nylon fibers are made from chemical derivatives of benzene, pxylene and ethylene, all hydrocarbons. Hydrocarbons are derived from two sources: from liquified petroleum gases (taken from natural gas) or from crude oil refining. The squeeze is on both.

SO WHAT ARE WE DOING?

A special blue-ribbon plant committee headed by production superintendent Carl Spangler was assigned back in June to come up with positive ways of better utilizing our energy and raw materials.

The goal: elimination to the greatest possible degree of energy and raw materials waste.

Ninety days of careful study produced:

—a multi-faceted plan (already largely implemented) for achieving a 7 to 10 per cent annual conservation of raw materials.

—procedures for cutting overall energy consumption by 5 to 7 per cent.

Those percentages may not sound like much until it is realized that one change produced a daily savings of 65,000 cubic feet of natural gas. That represents a savings of 23,725,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year . . . enough to fully cover the energy needs of 215 average-sized homes for a year. This includes heating, air conditioning, appliances, etc.

We've also lowered temperatures in various plant areas and reduced outside lighting. Our traditional Christmas tree will be in place, but it's lights will burn only a few hours on Christmas Eve.

We just want you to know that at the Shelby Plant of Fiber Industries, we're doing our very best to insure the greatest possible use of every cubic foot of natural gas, every gallon of fuel oil, every kilowatt of electricity and every ounce of raw materials.



Carl Spangler, checking here on some off quality yarn, was chairman of the Shelby Plant's Committee on Raw Material and Energy Conservation. Other members were: Joe Nash, Ade Lacasse, George Brant, Bob Earls, Bob Harrill, Ray Forner.

Our Most Important Asset . . .
The PEOPLE Who Work At

