

Don't Get Burned Cutting Firewood

It's not too soon to cut firewood for next winter. Firewood produces more heat and less creosote if it has "aged" or "seasoned" for six months prior to burning, reports Craven County Agricultural Extension Agent Jim Holton.

In a recent survey, North Carolinians who heated with woodstoves estimated their annual consumption of firewood at slightly less than 4 cords each. Those who burned wood in fireplaces also consumed about a cord and a half apiece. Cutting, hauling, splitting and stacking that much wood takes a lot of time, effort and money, so most wood burners in Craven County, particularly those with efficient woodstoves, are interested in the maximum amount of heat for minimum risk and expense.

Fresh-cut, or green, wood may weigh two to three tons per cord. The heat value of that green wood is reduced by its moisture content. The amount of water in the wood varies by species. Ash typically contains about half as much water as wood; hickory, two-thirds; oak, about three-fourths; white pines have nearly equal amounts of wood and water; and yellow-poplar and other so-called "soft hardwoods" actually contain more water than wood!

Burned green, this wood cannot produce its potential heat, because some of the heat of combustion must be used to eliminate the water. Aging (seasoning or air-drying) firewood allows this moisture to gradually escape before burning, according to Holton, using the sun's energy to eliminate the water. (Next week: "Six Months Will Aid Heat Value")

Herbicides Can Aid In Poison Ivy Kill

By WOODY UPCHURCH

One of the best ways of getting rid of poison ivy is to spray it with one of the approved herbicides, if you can do it without risking damage to shrubs or trees.

Agricultural Extension Service specialists at North Carolina State University suggest using either, 2, 4-D or Amitrole. If you use 2, 4-D, make sure it is the amine formulation. This is less likely to drift and injure nearby plants.

The herbicides should be applied when the plant is growing. Wet the leaves to the point of runoff. It may take more than one application for good control. The second application should be applied in late summer or the following spring.

Use four teaspoons of 2, 4-D amine per gallon of water. This rate is based on a 2, 4-D formulation that contains four pounds of active ingredient per gallon of product.

A household liquid detergent added to the formulation at the rate of two teaspoons per gallon will act as a good wetting agent. That is, the detergent will give the spray a "wetter" effect and give better coverage of the leaves.

If poison ivy is growing in a desirable tree or shrub, the ivy stem should be cut at ground level during the winter. Avoid getting any of the juice or moisture from the ivy on the skin. The cut vine will sprout again next spring. It can be sprayed with the herbicide after leaves emerge.

When the poison ivy is intertwined with desirable plants, it may be necessary to paint the leaves of the plant with a long-handled brush. Use the same solutions as that described for spraying.

Be sure to keep the herbicide off any plant that you don't want harmed. Follow carefully the label directions on the herbicide container.



It is time to be making plans for your 1984 Bulk Barn Needs. The man to see is Roy Hicks, Jr. at **Swain Gas Co**
Vanceboro, N.C. Main Street 244-0320

Keep Garden Going

Mid-summer gardens can look rather sick, depending on the degree of care they've been given, but this doesn't mean you can't make a comeback.

There are a number of crops that can be planted late and still yield an abundance of produce for the table and freezer, point out Agricultural Extension Service specialists at North Carolina State University.

The following crops can be planted late. The best planting dates in the Piedmont are given. If you live in the Coastal Plain, plant two to three weeks later; in the Mountains, plant two to three weeks earlier.

Broccoli plants, July 15-Aug. 15; beets, Aug. 1 - Sept. 1; cabbage plants, Aug. 1 - Sept. 1; cauliflower plants July 1 - Aug. 15; carrots, July 15 - August 15; collard seeds or plants, July 15 - Aug. 15; Chinese cabbage, Aug. 15 - Sept. 1.

Kale, Aug. 15 - Sept. 15; kohlrabi, Aug. 1 - Sept. 15; leaf lettuce, Aug. 15 - Sept. 15; onion seeds, Sept. 1-30; radishes, Aug. 1 - Sept. 15; rutabaga, Aug. 1 - 15; spinach, Aug. 1 - Sept. 1; turnips, Aug. 1 - Sept. 15.

Summer Reading Game Party

The Summer Reading Game Party for children at the Vanceboro-Craven County Public Library will be on Wednesday, August 1 at 4:00 P.M.

The movie, The Doughnuts will be shown first. Then certificates and prizes will be presented to the Reading Game winners. Refreshments of cupcakes, potato chips, and lemonade will be served after the presentations.

Craven County Allocated Funds For Road Improvement

The North Carolina Board of Transportation, at its monthly meeting here today, approved over \$45.4 million for secondary road construction improvements statewide.

The funds, which were allocated on a county-by-county basis, were appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly earlier this month. The legislative's action guaranteed that 1-3/8 cents of the state's 12-1/4 cents per gallon gas tax will be used for secondary road improvements.

State Secretary of Transportation W.R. Roberson, Jr. said passage of Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.'s "Good Roads Program" by the 1981 General Assembly was the essential step that has ensured continued funding for secondary road improvements across North Carolina. "Within this action, the revenues that enable us to maintain and improve an all-weather secondary road network would not have been available," Roberson said.

The amount of funding for each county is determined by a formula established by the state legislature. According to the formula, every county receives a percentage of the total funds based on the unpaved secondary roads in

the county in relation to the total mileage of unpaved secondary roads in the state.

Board members have been meeting with the 100 county boards of commissioners in public meetings across the state to review and approve projects to utilize these funds.

According to Secretary Roberson, as of January 1, 1984 Craven County has 184.80 miles of unpaved secondary roads. The total unpaved secondary system statewide contains 18,888 miles.

Craven County's share of the secondary road allocation approved by the board today is \$461,908.

Roberson noted that North Carolina's secondary road system is composed of 59,611 miles. He said, "These roads, many of which were the old and narrow farm-to-market roads, have become vital home-to-work routes for our citizens."

These funds allocated today will be used for improvements to the secondary road system such as new paving, widening existing paved roads, improving unpaved roadways to an "all weather condition," replacing small bridges and strengthening paved roads to relieve present weight restrictions.

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