

FARMING

Opening Of Greenville Market

No-Till Is Here?

While some of the farmers scream and holler when they see crops planted in weeds, broom straw and blackberry briars, the corn and soybeans keep on growing. There have been no confirmations on turning over in the graves of people who spend most of their lives fighting weeds with hoes and cultivators.

Most of the No-Till corn was planted late and luckily it got the July rains just in time. The No-Till corn will make much better than average yield this year. We, of course, have a chance of beating the 170 bushels Clifford Toler yields of last year. Clifford may beat his own record this year. We, of course, plan to measure some of these yields this coming fall.

The No-Till beans are sticking their heads above the small grain stubble. Almost over night you have a sea of brown stubble give way to the green soybean plants. You then begin to realize that maybe you are going to get a stand of soybeans after all. Your neighbors stop asking you when are you going to plow your beans.

Some of the farmers are going to have weed problems in their soybeans. Most of the weed problems are in areas of poor drainage. Of course, you want to remember that the conventional soybean farmer is having trouble getting his land dry enough to cultivate.

There are over 4,000 acres of No-Till corn and soybeans this year. This is double the amount of No-Till in the past.

John W. Smith
District Conservationist

Slime Flux - Wet Wood

The foul-smelling and unsightly seepage of sap from the trunk of shade trees is commonly called slime flux or wet wood. It occurs in apple, birch, elm, hemlock, maple, mulberry, oak, poplar and willow. In North Carolina slim flux is very common in large mature landscape oaks, tulip poplar and elms. This disease is not normally a serious problem if the tree is otherwise healthy.

Slime flux is a bacterial disease. The infected wood is frequently discolored or appears water soaked (wet wood). Gas (carbon dioxide) is produced by fermentation by bacteria producing pressure in the wood. This pressure forces sap from the trunk through cracks in branch crotch unions, pruning wounds, lawn mower wounds, other injuries and occasionally unwounded bark. This oozing of sap is termed fluxing. The flux is colorless to tan at first, but darkens upon exposure to the air. As fluxing continues, large areas of the bark become soaked. Many different microorganisms grow in the flux producing a foul or alcoholic smell. Various types of insects are attracted to the slime flux. If the fluxing continues for months, leaves on affected branches may be stunted and chlorotic and grass may be killed where the flux runs down the trunk.

In recent years many large mature landscape oaks in North Carolina have had problems with slime flux on the trunk or large exposed flare roots just above the soil line with no apparent wounds or injuries. Sap may continue to ooze for several weeks or months, but usually it eventually stops with no treatment and no apparent damage to the tree. This slime flux may be triggered by heat, drought and other stress.

There is no curative or preventative measures for slim flux except to maintain trees in general good state of vigor and minimize wounds and injuries. More damage can be done to the tree in attempting to cure slim flux than the flux will do alone. It was a common practice with slime flux on American elms to drill a hole in the trunk and insert a pipe. This does not cure the problem, it only allows the sap to drip on the ground and not run down the trunk. Installing a drain pipe is not recommended in most cases because it does little good and most of the slime flux on oaks occurs too close to the ground. If there is loose or dead bark in the slime flux area, remove all of the loose bark and allow the area to dry. Do not apply a wound dressing.

CLASSIFIEDS



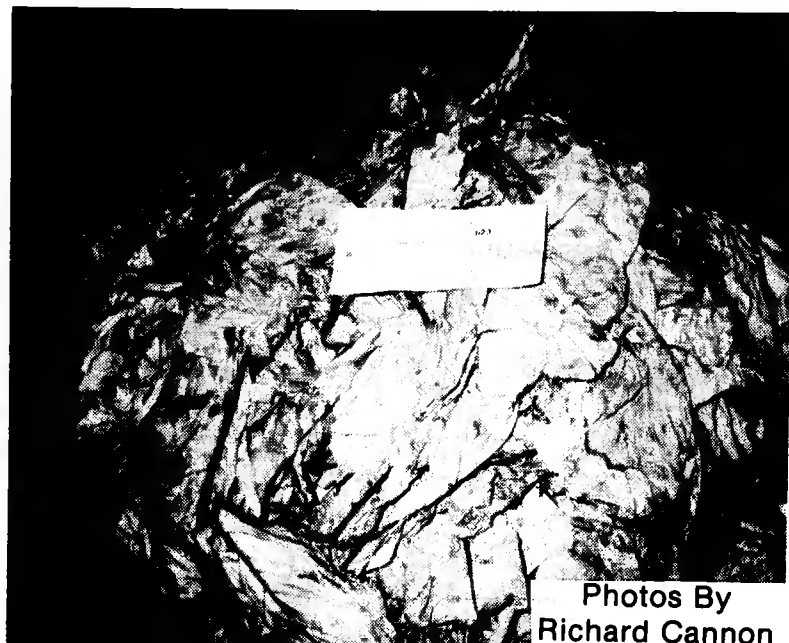
Senator Jesse Helms says "I have nudged the buyers to buy your tobacco and to keep it out of stabilization."



Bill Cleve, local tobacco owner, and Senator Thomas examine leaf on opening day.



Jim Graham
N.C. Commissioner of
Agriculture



Photos By
Richard Cannon

First pile of tobacco sold at Raynor Forbes Warehouse in Greenville.



Secretary of Agriculture John Block makes plea to farmers to keep the faith with their tobacco farming.

Wachovia Business Index

The level of business activity in North Carolina declined moderately in June, according to the Wachovia Business Index. The Index registered 129.0, down 0.6 percent from May.

The decrease in the Index primarily reflected declines in both the number of building permits issued and in the number of new business starts.

Employment in the non-manufacturing sector rose in trade and services and remained unchanged in government.

The total number of persons employed in manufacturing jobs was down slightly. Lower employment was recorded in the apparel and textile industries, while employment advanced in the furniture sector.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for North Carolina was 6.1 percent in June, up 0.2 percentage points from May. The national rate for June was 7.1 percent, down 0.4 percentage points from May. The unadjusted unemployment rate in North Carolina was 6.2 percent in June.

The Wachovia North Carolina Business Index measures the level of economic activity in North Carolina on a monthly basis. Using 1976 as a base of 100, it reflects indicators of employment, business expansion, production and construction activity in the state's economy. All data are seasonally adjusted for historic seasonal trends and are adjusted to smooth statistical aberrations.