



**GARDEN TIME**  
m. e. gardner  
n. c. state college

Whats new? Many of my readers have heard about, and some may have used gibberellic acid for the hormone effect it has on plant growth.

For this report, credit is due the Amdal Division of Abbott Laboratories of Ventura, California, and Farm Technology of Willoughby, Ohio.

Gibberellic acid is a very unusual compound in that it is not produced by synthetic processes. It is produced by a deep culture fermentation of a fungus, Gibberella fujikourii, first discovered in Formosa in 1926. It is a natural growth hormone and has less toxicity than many of the so-called non-toxic chemicals.

A few examples will serve to indicate the type of research being conducted by the Abbott Laboratories and some of the plant responses that have been observed to date.

Lemon trees have responded with larger green fruit suitable for storing and marketing of fresh lemons and a decrease in small yellow lemons which must be processed into juice. There has also been a delay in harvest time so that the peak production will come closer

to peak sales months in the summertime. In the field of breeding, gibberellic acid has been used to induce bolting (formation of seed stalk) in lettuce.

In Florida, gibberellin has been used to induce sprouting in newly harvested Irish potatoes. The stimulation from the hormone has the effect of by-passing the normal rest period necessary to induce sprouting.

In New York and Michigan it has been found that treatment of sour cherry trees infested with a virus disease can be made productive again. In Washington gibberellin treated sweet cherry trees have produced firmer fruit and better color. The ripening of the fruit has also been delayed which extends the marketing season. Yield increases have been observed on corn and a larger boll set on cotton.

Other studies are being conducted with strawberries, grapes, tobacco and ornamental crops such as roses, camellias and others. This is a brief progress report for your information and not a recommendation that you treat everything around the house

**HOW CHRISTMAS CAME INTO BEING**

Our Holiday Season with its joyous feeling mixed with religious observance intrigues many as to its beginning. Of course there are many legends and interpretations concerning the origin of Christmas, its name and why we celebrate it during December. Much time and study were given to establish a reasonable date and answers to give us the Christmas we now enjoy. The fourth century is as far as clerical researchers and lay scholars can go, into history, to pinpoint the observance of our traditional Christmas. However, the custom of a Christmas festival was already established dating back from previous eras.

The word Christmas began as "Christ's Mass" or from old English "Christes Masse" or the Mass of the Christ. And it was St. Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem, who strived to set up a universal day of observance from its regular spring celebration. The good bishop was granted permission by Pope Julius I to appoint leading theologians of the time to determine, as accurately as they could, the date of Christ's nativity. Having discovered many discrepancies and contradictions in astrological and astronomical calendars for the accurate celebration of Christ's Mass, the Church set the 25th of December for this joyous holiday.

So, since the year of 352 A.D. to this present day, the Saviour's birth has been observed. But, to this day, in some foreign countries, the festival of Christmas still occurs on many different dates. Members of the Orthodox religion, such as the Russian, Greek and Ukrainian commemorate Christmas on the 6th of January. In most European countries, December 6th is the day chosen to mark the beginning of the long and happy season.

**Over 1,000 Jam Auditorium To Hear Winston-Salem Choir**

WINSTON-SALEM — Over 1,000 persons jammed Fries Auditorium Sunday December 13, to hear the Winston-Salem State College choir, under the direction of Dr. James A. Dillard, present its annual Christmas concert. Campus students, city students, city residents and visitors from neighboring cities and states came to hear the singers perform. Their applause during the program and their words after it indicated that they thoroughly enjoyed what they saw and heard.

The 60 members of the choir sang with voices like those of the angels who sang at the first Christmas. Blended with the

harmony and sweetness of the voices was the beautifully arranged background scene of the Nativity on a starlight night.

This scene depicted the Virgin Mary and Child with Joseph and the angels watching over them. Persons in the nativity scene included Oratia Beavers as Mary and James Smith as Joseph, and Freda E. Paige and Rachel Little as angels.

Highlighting the works presented on program was Bach's "Motet No. 6," a lively piece done in German with exclamations of praise to God and many alleluias.

Featured as soloists in various selections were: Madelyn Gulliford, soprano for

Hogard's "Gloria in Excelsis," Debra Eaton, alto Gloria Harrington and Johnnie Jones, soprano, and William McGill, tenor, all in Ringwald's "The Christmas Story." The Christmas story was more dramatic because of the narrator, Robert V. Gordon, Jr., the lighting, and the costumes and interpretations given by the singers.



... threshold of a bright new year.

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**On The Home Front**

(Items this week from Franklin, Chowan, and Edgecombe Counties.)

**REUPHOLSTERS FURNITURE**

Mrs. Ruth High, a young homemaker of Spring Hope, Rt. 1, found it would cost more to have a sofa reupholstered than the original cost of the piece of furniture. Mrs. Margaret Baldwin, home economics agent, says several neighbors living in the Franklin County community were invited to Mrs. High's to attend a workshop. And Mrs. High reports that the cost of the completed sofa was only \$9. Now two of the neighbors are planning to upholster their sofas before the holidays.

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mrs. Pattie Fayton was selected as the most outstanding Home Demonstration Club member in Chowan County and was recognized at the achievement day program. Mrs. Ummie Charlton, home economics agent, says the women were judged on their participation in the local Home Demonstration program; support of county, state, and district activities; their leadership ability and accomplishments. Others vying for the honor were Mrs. Rose Overton, Mrs. Helen Parks, Mrs. Mattie Jordan, Mrs. Minnie Summers, Mrs. Jessie Badham, Mrs. Rhodia Roberts, Mrs. Carrie V. Brown and Mrs. Cleo White.

**MAKE YOUR OWN BEDSPREADS**  
Homemakers in Edgecombe

Toast for breakfast has become an American standard. But it's delicious at other times of the day, too—as a bedtime snack, for example. For promoting sweet dreams, try this suggestion: toast enriched bread slices on one side only under the broiler. Spread the untoasted side with a combination of butter, brown sugar, chopped nuts and nutmeg or butter, honey and grated orange rind.

with gibberellin.

It seems apparent that this natural hormone, properly used, holds much promise in helping solve our ever-increasing needs for food and fiber.

County have started making their bedspreads as a result of a workshop by Mrs. Genevieve Greenlee, home economics Extension specialist.

Mrs. Hazel Parker, home economics agent, says 15 women worked on three spreads during the workshop. Now the Club members are requesting workshops for their local club members.



**Greetings**

May all your roads lead you to Christmas:

to cherished hearts, to cheerful hearth, to spirit's

strength, with the blessing of the joyous Season.

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