

Newest Watermelon Variety Encouraging

5127 Appears To Have Better Eating Quality In Demonstration

Harvesting of the new 5127 watermelon variety test demonstration was begun last week. The new variety is being grown in competition with the Fairfax and the Congo varieties on the Oak Ridge Farm of the Leary Bros. of Edenton.

Under the direction of tenant, E. E. Hollowell, a group field meeting was called on Tuesday afternoon of last week with Specialist H. M. Covington from State College and Dr. Roy Haskell of the U. S. Department of Agriculture attending. Field observation of each of the three varieties were made. A number of each of the varieties were cut for observation and taste tests were made for quality. The group agreed that the new variety appeared to have the best eating quality.

Two harvests of the watermelon demonstration were made last week. While the final harvest has not been made it appears that the Congo variety is the larger in size, the 5127 is second in size and the Fairfax is the smaller. There is considerable less disease of the vines and melons in the new variety. The new variety has a much better uniform shape. Complete information will be given when the final results are obtained.

School Conference In Greenville August 6-7

Problems of school boards of county and city school systems and of district committees will receive study at a two-day work-conference scheduled for a 34-county area, to be held at East Carolina College on August 6 and 7. Holding this conference will be the North Carolina School Board Association.

Principals on the program include President John D. Messick of East Carolina College, and NCSBA officials, headed by Dean Guy B. Phillips, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the association, Chapel Hill and Directors L. C. Kerr of Clinton and Dallas Herring of Rose Hill. State Association President B. J. Ramsaur of Lincoln also will participate on the program.

Registration begins in Austin Building on the East Carolina campus on Friday, August 6, at 5 o'clock, followed by a banquet in North Dining Hall, with Dallas Herring presiding and Dean Phillips making the keynote address.

OBSERVE...



North Carolina Parks Show Attendance Gain

Combined attendance for the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which converge in North Carolina, was 1,073,348 more during the first six months of 1954 than for the same period last year.

National Park Service figures show that the two attractions were visited by 2,457,763 people between January 1 and June 30 this year. Of these, 1,652,512 were reported for the Parkway and 805,251 for the Smokies Park. Parkway attendance was 110,421 greater than for the first half of 1953, while Great Smokies attendance declined 3,073.

Wright Brothers National Memorial, on the North Carolina Coast, was visited by 56,800 people during the first six months of 1954. This was only 2,854 less than the total for the same period in 1953, when the Memorial set new attendance records during the 50th anniversary year of powering flight.

The Great Smokies Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway, which have become the most visited national park facilities in the land during the past few years, meet near Mile-High Overlook west of Asheville, where a new section of the parkway was completed in 1953 from U. S. 19 at Soco Gap to the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Parkway offers a continuous paved motor route from the North Carolina line south to Asheville. The main North Carolina entrance to the Great Smokies Park is near Cherokee, on U. S. 441.

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CAMPEN'S

SPORTS AFIELD

By Ted Keating

Oblivious to the general opinion that it isn't even a sport, a contented army of Americans fishes for crabs, oysters and other shellfish. All they get out of it is a lot of fun—and some of the best eating the waters of our continent provide. Let's take a look at just two, crabs and crawfish.

Crabs — Although several edible crabs exist on the East and West Coasts, the No. 1 favorite is the blue crab which is found from southern New England down to Florida and all around the Gulf Coast. When the tide goes out, you'll find hand netters near the channels and weeded patches in the bays. The crabs are exposed in the shallows and are simply dipped out with a net which has a handle of six feet or so. On the West Coast the Dungeness crab takes the place of the blue crab as the one most likely to be caught as recreation.

The old-time crab trap is still used in some places. The other amateur method of catching crabs is to lower

a bait on a line which is attached to a pole as a rule. When it is drawn up, the crabs cling to the bait, and if you're lucky you hand net them at the surface.

In an article on shellfish which recently appeared in Sports Afield magazine, Bill Wolf explains that crab baits lean toward the smelly type because crabs are scavengers. A rich, ripe piece of henhaden (mosbunker or fatback, as it is known in some sections) is good. Professional crabbers use horse meat which has been salted and set in the sun for awhile.

Crawfish—Call these crawfish, crayfish, crawdads or mudbugs, they are appreciated only in the Mississippi Delta country. That is the rest of the nation's loss. The crawfish (which is almost strictly a fresh-water crustacean and is not to be confused with the salt-water crawfish known as the spiny, or rock lobster) resembles a small lobster, even to its claws. It is familiar to bass and trout fishermen and a good bait, in its smaller sizes, and is considered a nuisance by everyone who fishes bait on the bottom. It will cling to the bait, eating it even when drawn from the water. In fact, that's one of the simplest ways that you can catch crawfish.

This simplest method consists of

taking a piece of string tied to a pole, and baiting with a chunk of meat. The more professional method consists of using a square of net with four wires from the corners. Place the meat bait in the center, lower the trap to the bottom and later collect it by pushing a stick through the wires.

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