

## Hurricanes Damage N. C. Oyster Bottoms

Season Opened October 1 and Will Close March 1

The season for taking oysters from bottoms along the North Carolina coast opened October 1. It closes next March 1.

Officials of the State Department of Conservation and Development's commercial fisheries division at Morehead City expect around 400 of the more than 2,200 boats licensed to do commercial fishing in North Carolina water will be engaged during the coming season in dredging for oysters.

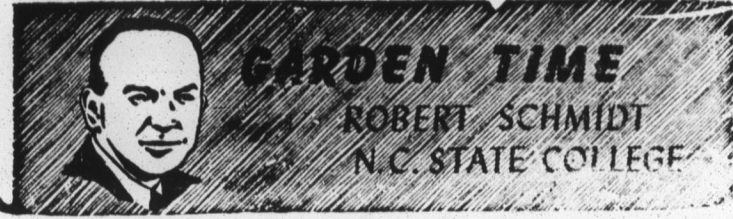
Last season's catch of oysters was below normal, according to a report given C&D Director Ben E. Douglas by Gehrman Holland, assistant State fisheries commissioner, who blamed rough weather to a large extent for the curtailed output of the bivalves.

Hurricane Barbara, which caused considerable property loss last year when it struck along the coastal area, did heavy damage to oyster bottoms in the Carteret-Pamlico-Hyde and other oyster-producing areas. Hurricanes this year are also believed to have caused some damage, but officials are unable to say how extensive until the completion of a survey now in progress.

Oyster production during the 1952-54 biennium in North Carolina was put at 335,593 five-peck bushels by Holland in a report to Douglas. Value of the oyster catch to oystermen was put at \$838,903. These figures do not include oysters taken from privately owned bottoms. It is estimated production of oysters from private beds will reach about 25,000 bushels a season.

North Carolina oysters are noted for their excellent flavor, according to veteran oystermen. Last year they brought from \$2 to \$3.25 for a five-peck bushel. They were generally considered of excellent quality, Holland said. North Carolina oysters have a high sanitary rating as a result of close inspection work by the C&D Department in cooperation with the shellfish sanitation office of the State Board of Health and also with agencies of the federal government.

Under the State oyster cull law, oysters taken from North Carolina bottoms must be culled where caught and if they are less than three inches at their longest diameter they must be returned to waters from which they are taken.



**GARDEN TIME**  
ROBERT SCHMIDT  
N. C. STATE COLLEGE

The time is at hand when we may expect light frost almost any night after the weather cools off. The first frosts usually occur in the low spots because the cold air, being heavier than warm air, will settle there. Very often after the first frost nips our fall flowers and tender vegetables there is a period of two or three weeks before another frost occurs. Therefore it is desirable to do what we can to prevent damage by these early light frosts and so prolong our season.

It is well to keep the following facts in mind: Light frosts will not occur on cloudy nights; frosts will not occur if a breeze is stirring the air; if your garden is so located that the cold air can move off to lower areas, it will probably escape damage from light frosts; if your garden is low and is surrounded by trees and shrubs so that the cold air cannot move out, you will probably have severe damage from the first frosts.

How can we prevent frost damage? That is not easy for the average gardener. The commercial fruit and flower grower may use sprinkler irrigation, oil heaters or large fans to do the job but these are impractical for the home garden. In California, I saw large propeller fans used to stir up the air to prevent frost damage. In Minnesota I saw dahlias grown under cheese cloth cover in order to protect from early frost and prolong the blooming season. These methods are effective but expensive.

On a frosty morning we often see choice chrysanthemums, dahlias and tomatoes covered with sheets or paper. Usually these covers are simply thrown over the plants. This is poor protection because the cover is in contact with the plant or flower. Whenever the cloth or paper touches the plant or flower, frost damage will occur right through the cover. To be effective the cover must be held off of the plant by a framework or by stakes.

Turning the sprinkler on early in the morning when a light frost occurs will sometimes prevent or lessen the damage but not always. I have also found that since the great increase in automatic traffic on the street along one side of my garden, my dahlias are seldom damaged by the first light frosts as they used to be a few years ago. It pays to listen to radio weather reports especially for early frost predictions.

The human affections need to be changed from self to benevolence and love for God and man; changed to having but one God and loving Him supremely, and helping our brother man.

—Mary Baker Eddy.

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## Mrs. Henrietta Forehand Dies After Long Illness

Mrs. Henrietta Churchill Forehand, 78, died at 3:15 o'clock Friday morning at her home near Center Hill after an illness of two years. A native of Chowan County, she was the wife of the late W. T. Forehand.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Guelia F. Jordan of Tyler and a brother, J. A. Churchill of Petersburg, Va.

She was a member of the Center Hill Baptist Church, where funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The pastor, the Rev. L. C. Chandler, officiated with burial in the family cemetery.

### Unnecessary Caution

Candid Uncle (sotto voce)—I don't think much of your choice, my boy; she's older than you, nearly blind, figure sloppy—

Nephew—You needn't whisper, uncle—she's also deaf.

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