

Unfavorable Conditions Cause Poor Germination

By Murray L. Goodwin
Ag. Ext. Agt.
Poor Seed Germination — Crops such as snap beans, lima beans, corn, melons, etc. often germinate poorly early in the growing season. In most cases, the poor germination is due to unfavorable weather conditions at planting time. The unfavorable weather is usually present in the form of cold soil. These warm-season vegetables require a soil temperature range of 60 to 70 degrees F. for optimum germination. Planting before the soil is sufficiently warm will play havoc on lima beans and melons. The germination rate will also be influenced by too much

water in the soil due to excessive rainfall or poor drainage. This oversupply of soil moisture will also favor the development of seedling diseases. Other causes of poor germination include planting too deeply (especially in the spring when the soil is cooler—as a general rule, plant deeper in the fall when the moisture level is higher down in the soil), soil crusting after heavy rains, insect or rodent injury to seed, and old or improperly stored seed. Regardless of the reason for poor germination, the best cure is to dig up and replant promptly with quality, seed, rather than

trying to transplant seedlings from another location on the row. **Sweet Potato Bed Problems** — Our sweet potato specialist at N. C. State University indicate that they have had complaints of bedded sweet potatoes rotting in the soil. When checking into them, they have attributed the rotting to environmental conditions, some of which the grower can control. The cause of the rot is due to asphyxiation as a result of (a) covering with too much soil — greater than 3.0 inches and (b) substantial rainfall between bedding and covering with plastic. Keep in mind that an actively sprouting eight ounce (No. 1 average size) sweet potato consumes the oxygen in approximately 50 cc of air per hour. This amount of air will not diffuse through deep soils, especially when wet, compacted by rain, and covered with plastic. In some cases the bedded sweet potatoes are killed because of excess heat build-up under the plastic cover during warm and sunny days. Under some conditions bedded sweet potatoes can be severely injured at 95 degrees F. for a few hours. The specialists indicate that they have not seen a case recently where they primary cause of rotting was due to an infectious disease. Eastern North Carolina Fresh Market Tomato Trials — 1980 — Robeson

and Sampson Counties conducted tomato variety trials in 1980. Both trials were staked and grown on plastic. The yield results for the entire season are reported here. Both plantings were made in mid-April and harvested as long as practically possible. The best yields in the early

harvest period were obtained — Red Pik, Castlex 1025, and NC 79-84 with Pik Red out-producing all other varieties. As you can see from the yields reported in the table there are several good varieties that growers should try. Similar trials are being conducted this year.

End Of Phone Rentals Predicted

TARBORO — The telephone industry and its customers are facing a new era of deregulation that could bring to an end the traditional leasing or renting of telephones. According to Wayne Peterson, president of Carolina Telephone, "The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has already ruled that telephones and other terminal equipment such as PBX's and key systems will no longer be regulated after March 1, 1982. If this decision is not changed then it is probable that Carolina Telephone will only sell telephones after that date. "Carolina Telephone plans to continue renting to

those customers who are already renting prior to the deregulation date; however, the rules for that part of our business could change. It is important that our customers understand that we do not make the rules and that we have to abide by the rules and regulations prescribed by our regulators. "We've had numerous inquiries about this matter recently from our customers. Some of them think that Carolina Telephone has made an arbitrary decision to stop renting and start selling telephones, but that is not the case at all. The Federal Communications Commission has changed the rules under which telephone companies operate. That change has opened up competition in the telephone instrument business. Our actions at this time are geared towards implementing the FCC's rules as they stand today." There are several unresolved issues regarding the FCC order, according to Carolina Telephone. Some telephone companies and other parties have appealed the FCC order which would separate competitive aspects of the telephone industry from regulated functions. If the order is litigated in the courts, there could be delays and charges. Telephone companies across the nation are presently faced with competition in the terminal equipment market and in long distance services. Customers can buy telephones and other equipment from numerous suppliers and connect them to telephone company lines if FCC standards are met. Competitive long distance services are also available from several companies, especially to the business community. According to Peterson, the long range effects of competition will probably cause local rates to go up. "Local telephone rates are not now high enough to pay for the service being provided," he stated. "Local rates historically have been subsidized by revenues from other sources, such as long distance. Now that competition has been introduced into the long distance business, the subsidization or contribution that has been made by long distance towards helping to cover the cost of the plant used jointly for local and long distance service will decrease. "Since the cost of providing and operating the local exchange facilities remains essentially the same, with or without long distance service, a reduction in the revenues from long distance service means additional revenues have to come from other services." Peterson stated that Carolina Telephone would attempt to keep its customers informed about the changes taking place and why they are occurring.

Variety	Robeson County Marketable 30 No. Boxes-A	Sampson County Marketable 30 No. Boxes-A
Castley 105	1526	1215
Castlex 1025	1130	—
Jack Pot	1033	1163
NC 79-84	1373	1124
Pik Red	1205	828
Royal Flush	1161	638
Super Fantastic	1218	—
Big Set	—	1356
Full House	—	1340

Edenton-Chowan Recreation News

Sr. Babe Ruth Baseball — More participants are needed in the 16-18 year old Babe Ruth League. If fifteen participants are not signed up by Friday, May 15 this league will have to be cancelled. **Tennis Lessons** — Tennis lessons will be offered through the recreation department and be taught by Terri Ranson, the girl's tennis coach at John A. Holmes High School. Three week sessions will be offered as follows: 1st session-June 22 - July 17; 2nd session-July 20 - August 14. The cost of these lessons will be \$45.00 for ages 9 to adult. Beginners class will begin at 8 - 9 A. M. and Intermediates 9 - 10 A. M. For more information contact the recreation department at 482-8595.

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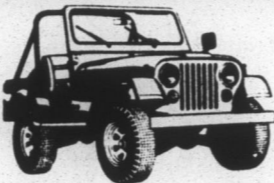
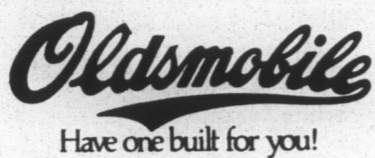
Mr. Jordan, 99 Taken In Death

Arthur Henry Jordan, 99, Route 1, Tyner, died May 10 in Chowan Hospital after an extended illness. He was a retired farmer.

Mr. Jordan was a native of Chowan County, the son of the late Ellsberry and Sallie Copeland Jordan. He was the widower of Mrs. Sarah Byrum Jordan.

Surviving are several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 4 P. M. Tuesday in Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church with Rev. George Cooke officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery with Willford - Barham Funeral Home in charge.

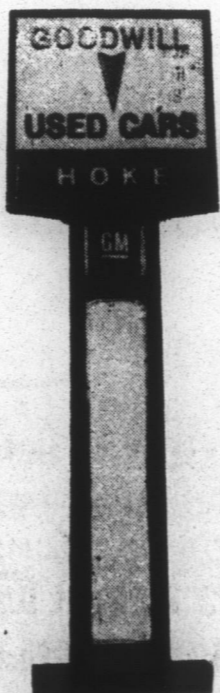


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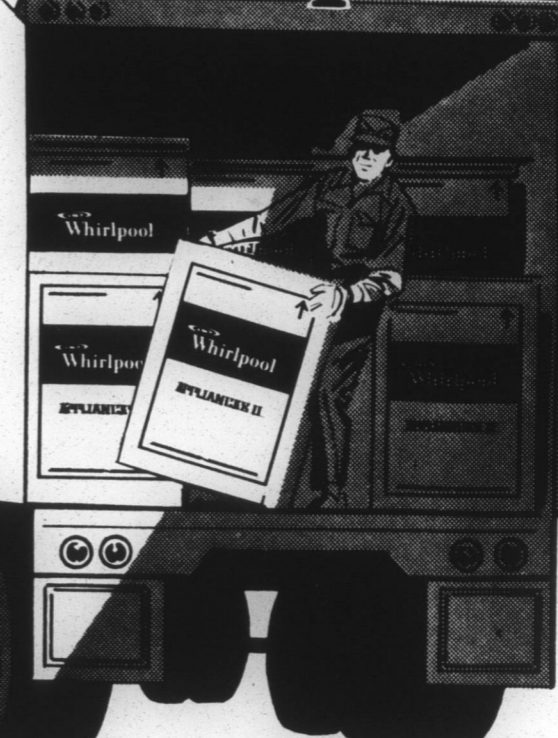
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