



A TRAP TOBACCO BED—
This method is now being used to combat the flea beetle. The idea is that if the beetles attack the bed, they will not get inside the inner square.

A THREE-IN-ONE OPERATION—Here you see a farmer putting his fertilizer in the ground, setting and watering the plants all in one operation. Its practical, too.

STRAIGHT TALK to Carolina Tobacco Growers

By ROY H. PARK

“WHENEVER the average price of flue-cured tobacco drops below 20 cents a pound it is doubtful if the average grower can show any margin of profit with which to buy the ordinary requirements of a farm family, pay taxes and educate his children.”

The speaker is E. G. Moss, a tall and studious man who has spent a lifetime in the study of tobacco. From the time he was big enough to help out on his father's tobacco farm over in the southern part of Granville County, North Carolina, he has been interested in tobacco and has been bent upon finding out things about its culture that would enable farmers to produce it more profitably. Nearly a quarter of a century ago he was instrumental in getting the North Carolina Tobacco Experiment Station established just one mile from Oxford, and from that day until this he has been there as assistant director in charge. F. E. Miller is director of state test farms.

The Acreage Control Plan

Of course, in the final analysis, the flue-cured tobacco production will be more or less governed by the government's acreage control plan. Through the early part of December tobacco contracts had been signed by 86 per cent of North Carolina's farmers. Just what the reduction will be is not yet known, although E. Y. Floyd, in charge of the tobacco program in North Carolina, said that the Secretary of Agriculture will

gave the following pointers on culture:

Good Soil: A light soil of a sandy to a sandy loam of at least average fertility is desirable. The Granville, Durham, Norfolk and Marlboro soils are usually regarded as the best, though in the old belt of North Carolina and Virginia the Cecil and Appling soils produce a large part of the crop.

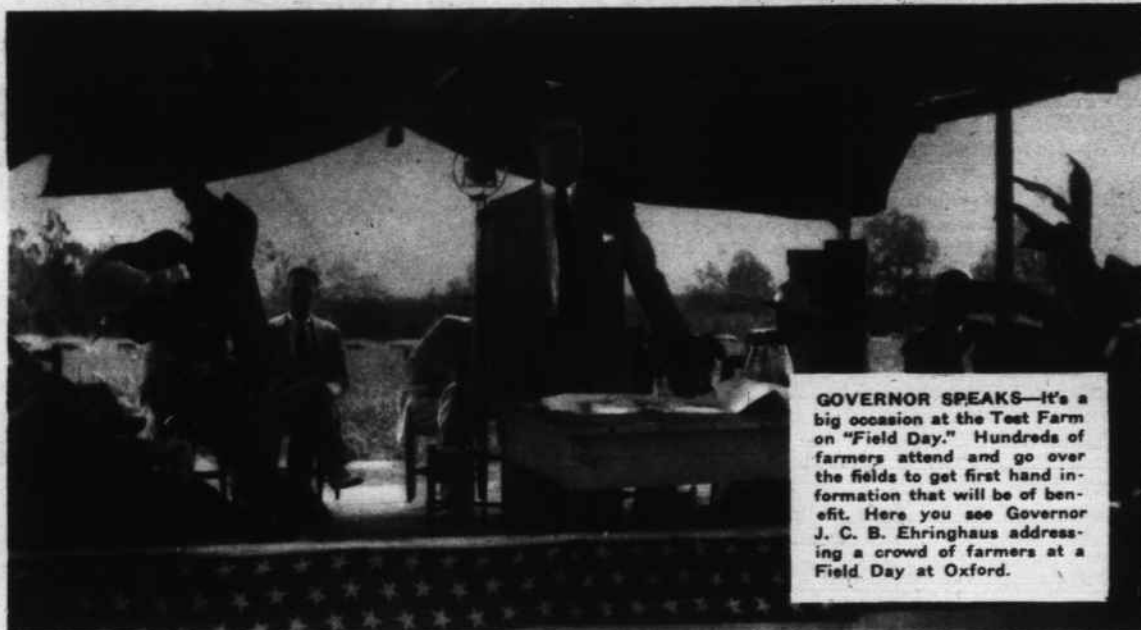
Varieties: The Virginia Bright Leaf, White Stem Oronoco, Jamaica and Gold Dollar are usually regarded as the best

bed has always been important, but it is more so now on account of downy mildew (Blue Mold) which is frequently very destructive to the young seedlings. There is no remedy for this disease except plenty of warm sunshine, supplemented with a light application of some quick acting nitrate.

Experiments show that it is just as satisfactory not to "burn the bed" provided it is located on new ground. The date of sowing varies from around

Christmas in some parts of South Carolina to around the last of February or early March in the Winston-Salem territory of North Carolina. Old beds should not be sowed as disease often originates in old beds, such as Black Root, for instance.

Fertilizers: There are so many variations in the soil types and soil fertility that it is difficult to say definitely that one fertilizer or one analysis is better for any particular field or farm; however, there are certain general recommendations that can be followed with minor variations to suit certain



GOVERNOR SPEAKS—It's a big occasion at the Test Farm on "Field Day." Hundreds of farmers attend and go over the fields to get first hand information that will be of benefit. Here you see Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus addressing a crowd of farmers at a Field Day at Oxford.

But Mr. Moss, a true scientist in every respect, is not prone to make a statement without seeing that it is properly qualified. So he added:

May Lose Export Trade

"On the other hand, if the production of tobacco is so restricted as to cause a price which is out of line with other commodities, and is prohibitive to foreign countries, we might easily lose the greater part of our export trade, and in so doing we would stimulate production in foreign countries.

Mr. Moss would not express his opinion on the outlook for tobacco prices in 1936. He did, however, point out that the 1935 flue-cured crop of 785,000,000 pounds was 70,000,000 pounds in excess of the allotment, and then added:

"At the same time, it is true that business conditions over the country as a whole seem to be definitely on the upward trend. Cigarette consumption in the United States for 1935 was between five and ten per cent ahead of 1934, the consumption being around 132 billion as compared with 125 billion in 1934 and 120 billion in 1930."

make this announcement by not later than February 1, if not before. The reduction in 1935 was 15 per cent below the five-year average but weather conditions were favorable and North Carolina produced a very large crop.

According to Mr. Moss, "it is up to the grower to produce as nearly as possible the allotment given him of the best quality tobacco his knowledge of farming will permit." And here Mr. Moss

varieties for Eastern North Carolina and South Carolina. Cash, Jamaica and Bonanza are regarded as the best types for the middle and old belts. The Virginia Bright Leaf and White Stem Oronoco are very good for lighter soils.

Buy Certified Seed

Unless you sow your own seed or those of a neighbor, buy only certified seed.

The Seed Bed: Selection of the seed

NINE YEAR AVERAGE TEST, 1926 - 1935

Oronoco Group of Flue-Cured Tobacco, Oxford, N. C.

Variety	Yield Per Acre	Average Per 100 Lbs.	Value Per Acre
Cash	1233	\$16.77	\$207.71
Broad Leaf Oronoco	1186	17.25	206.77
Banana Leaf	1233	15.90	198.34
Silk Leaf	1197	15.35	192.65
White Stem Oronoco	1084	16.89	188.67
Jamaica	1220	14.98	184.25
York	1181	13.91	170.49
Robertson	1170	12.87	159.43
Mammoth	1053	14.90	154.90
Gooch	1136	11.20	128.23

Table above shows the results of a nine-year test (year of 1932 excepted) carried on at the Oxford Tobacco Station to determine the best varieties of tobacco. All of the varieties received the same attention.

local conditions.

For instance, the committee of agronomists who are working with tobacco in the flue-cured area, have made the following recommendations:

For light or less productive soils—800 to 1000 lbs. per acre—3-8-6 mixture.

For heavy or more productive soils—700 to 800 lbs. per acre—3-10-6 mixture.

Application Important

The method of application is more important than many growers realize and it is essential that the fertilizer be well mixed with the soil.

Transplanting: Best results are usually obtained when the plants are set out and watered rather than just setting out when the land is "in season." Rows should be about four feet wide and the plants are usually spaced from 20 to 24 inches in the row.

Cultivating: Ridge method is recommended. About five plowings and one hoeing usually needed.

Topping: Top high and strive to produce a large quantity of bright tobacco.

Curing: This is a matter that must be handled by the individual.