

Growth - Culture Of Weed From Plant Bed To Auction Floor Is Traced For Paper

The tedious process of raising the golden weed is begun with the burning off of space in which the farmer plants his seed bed. These long, rectangular-shaped beds are situated in the most fertile spots on the farm, usually in the protecting surroundings of wooded areas. The ground is broken up, fertilized, and planted with the tobacco seeds. Across narrow strips, that span the bed, the tobacco canvas is spread. This thin netting affair is designed to protect the growing plants from the harmful effects of wind and frost.

In the meantime, the farmer has no time to sit back and take it easy. Land for other crops, as well as tobacco, is plowed and prepared for planting.

Dangers in the form of blue mold and insects threaten the little plants that soon dot the bed. The farmer desperately combats these pests with paradichlorobenzene and usually survives with only a minor loss, if any.

TO THE FIELD

Soon the plants become of size to transplant in the open fields. The farmer, along with other helpers, pull the plants up and place them in baskets or tubs. This done, they are ready for the great task of setting out tobacco. The plants are dropped, one by one, into the transplanter, which sets out the plant and waters it at the same time. One person operates the transplanter with another to assist him by dropping the plants.

Tobacco is planted from 16 to 20 inches apart in rows ranging from four to five feet apart.

In the hot days of June the farmer and his entire family, armed with hoes, set out to destroy the most common pest—grass. However, this problem can be practically eliminated by careful plowing.

From the time the tobacco is knee-high until the last leaf is taken from the stalk, worms set in with the sole determination of riddling the prize leaves of Mr. Farmer's best tobacco. He retaliates with the use of poison and gallantly attempts to make a stand against his latest enemies. There are two kinds of tobacco worms: the bud worm, that neatly clips the bud and kills the plants, and the horn worm, who hungrily devours the leaf.

Gradually, the tobacco grows taller and begins to bloom. These pink blossoms are the beginning of more work for Mr. Tobacco Farmer. He then tops the tobacco by snapping off the blossom top of each bush or hill, as they are called. Until now the tobacco has been growing tall and slender, but with the topping job completed the bush begins to spread out and huge leaves of green tobacco begin to take shape. By topping, the strength of the plant not only goes into producing larger leaves, but, also, in the making of heavier leaves—and weight plays an important part in the tobacco industry.

Since topping forces strength into the making of the leaf it also produces suckers, which are growths at the base of each leaf that sap up the strength originally intended for the leaf. Therefore, the farmer has to sucker his tobacco in order that he may produce the fine weed that he hopes to yield.

CARE IN CURING

Harvest time approaches around the first of July and continues into August. Cropping, as the harvest is called, begins from the bottom leaves to the top and last leaves. The bottom ones are called sand lugs and the top leaves, tips. The middle leaves are the larger and better; thus, here is the cream of the crop.

Croppers snap off the ripened leaves—those that have begun to turn from their usual green to a slight yellowish blend—and place them in a waiting dray. When loaded, this dray is pulled to the barn by a mule where the green tobacco is strung on sticks. Each stringer is assisted by two handlers and the tobacco is passed to the stringer in hands or bundles of around three or four leaves, depending on its size.

The tobacco is hung on tiers inside the barn and a fire built in the furnace. Then the night work of the farmer begins—the curing of his tobacco. The curing process lasts about a week and is a very tedious job. Through the various stages of heat, the one-time green leaf becomes the golden weed that we see on the markets of Whiteville.

The curing of tobacco is varied but it usually runs in this order: The first stage is known as "coloring", which ranges from around 90 to 100 degrees. After the color is set in the tobacco, the heat is stepped up to 120 degrees for approximately three hours. Then, from there the little thin tube of mercury is moved up to 130 from three more hours. Within a heat ranging from 120 to 140 the process is known as killing the leaf. Between 160 and 170 degrees the finishing touches are added to the golden weed in the respect of killing the stem.

Curing the tobacco is a very cautious job and every care is taken in order to produce the finest grade possible. There are dangers since the barn can be burned at the slightest contact of the dry leaf against the hot flues. There is danger of ruining the tobacco when the heat is not regulated as it should be. This often times caused sweating of the tobacco which results in the sponging of the leaf.

After the tobacco is cured it is removed to the pack house where the next great task confronts the farmer. That is the grading and tying of the weed, in preparation for the market. Grading takes the skilled eye of an expert, and tying, the perserverence and neatness of one who knows how. Each barn is graded and tied separately and sold in that manner.

Then the happy day arrives when the farmer welcomes the opening sale of the Whiteville market with a load of his best tobacco—the crop that he has worked so hard to achieve. He pays off his debts and with his extra money he turns his attention to the making of a new crop.

AUCTION MARKET



TABOR CITY'S AUCTION Market has just completed its longest and most successful season. The auction shed is shown here.

Need Sanitation In Raising Chicks

Proper Sanitary Methods Are "Musts" In The Raising Of Poultry, County Assistant Farm Agent Advises

BY C. D. RAPER
Assistant Farm Agent

Poultry diseases are constantly confronting the poultryman. They must be recognized and controlled if he is to stay in business. The adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," certainly applies to them.

The industry has recognized this advice by adopting various sanitation programs, with the goal of producing healthy stock relatively free from disease. It has been proven practically and experimentally that such stock is capable of producing more profitably.

One of the major problems of the poultryman today is to reduce the relatively high mortality in both young and adult birds. The best way to reduce this mortality is through sanitation.

Sanitation means not only clean well disinfected quarters and clean soil, but also the use of clean feeders and water fountains in order to prevent as much as possible contamination from these sources.

Practically all poultry diseases enter the bird through the mouth; hence, every precaution should be taken to reduce the danger of infection through this route.

Feed troughs and hoppers should be of a type that will not allow birds to get in them or roost over them. Removable hoppers are preferred to stationary ones, because they can be carried to clean water.

Small and easy to handle, this "pigmy" life-saving outfit is expected to bring about a sharp reduction in the high infant mortality rate in rural areas. The portable incubator can be moved easily into isolated homes to help save the lives of premature babies. Physicians all over the nation are looking with interest on the new unit because—compared to bulky incubators usually available only in large hospitals—it is small enough to be transported quickly in any emergency to isolated rural districts.

out and cleaned. Water vessels should be such that they will supply good, clean water at all times and should be placed to prevent dampening the floor.

The house itself should be cleaned often and clean litter put on the floor. Crushed corn cobs make an excellent litter for poultry. Local mills will grind corn cobs from the farm or they can be purchased.

Cork trees from Spain and rubber bushes from Mexico are being cultivated in the California State Experiment Station in an effort to replace supplies from abroad.

New 'Life Saver' for Premature Babies



FORD ENGINEERS HELPED DEVELOP THIS PORTABLE INCUBATOR

Through the combined efforts of Ford Motor Company engineers and Henry Ford Hospital officials at Detroit, a new low-cost portable baby incubator has been developed after 12 years.

Small and easy to handle, this "pigmy" life-saving outfit is expected to bring about a sharp reduction in the high infant mortality rate in rural areas. The portable incubator can be moved easily into isolated homes to help save the lives of premature babies. Physicians all over the nation are looking with interest on the new unit because—compared to bulky incubators usually available only in large hospitals—it is small enough to be transported quickly in any emergency to isolated rural districts.

The outfit (shown above) is hardly larger than a clothes basket and fits easily on an automobile seat. It works when plugged into an ordinary light socket and can be set upon a kitchen table. As a life saver for premature babies, this compact unit has been remarkably successful in Michigan. Twenty of the tiny incubators are strategically located in communities not able to purchase the larger ones and in sections not served by hospitals. Results are attracting wide attention.

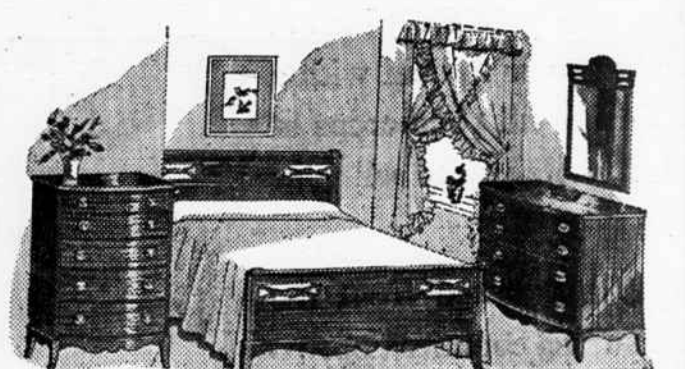
As soon as arrangements can be made with a hospital supply company, the units will be manufactured and marketed on a larger scale, a Ford official said. The price will be held as closely as possible to actual cost—approximately \$100.

SPEAKING OF SAFETY

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TABOR CITY, N. C.

R.F.D. Carriers Bond Salesmen

At Least This Legion Of Uncle Sam's Employees Sell Defense Stamps In Denominations From 10-Cents To \$5.00

Thirty-two thousand rural mail carriers are now acting as agents in the sale of Defense Savings Stamps, postal officials have informed the Treasury Department. Demand for the stamps in sparsely settled districts caused the Post Office Department to authorize the carriers to act as salesmen.

The stamps range in value from ten cents to five dollars. Purchases

Food for Defense



More efficient food distribution to build national health, "a vital factor in defense," was urged by Earl French, national marketing director of A & P Tea Company's produce-buying affiliate, in nationwide broadcast.

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Mr. Farmer

TO THIS SECTION'S MOST MODERN

DRUG STORE

Although this drug store began business in 1908, it is generally agreed that it is one of the most modern in the state. It is modernly equipped throughout and well stocked with a full line of quality drug store merchandise. We extend you a cordial welcome to come in and look around whether you are interested in buying or not.

COOL OFF at our FOUNTAIN

Our new Liquid Carbonic fountain and luncheonette is the most modern the market affords. At this fountain you will get quick service, tasty, toasted sandwiches of all kinds, cool, satisfying fountain drinks, delicious sundaes, ice cream and lunch you'll like.

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