

Hints From The County Extension Chairman

By - Jerry Purser



Leaf Miners

Now is a good time to check your boxwoods, hollies and other landscape plants for leaf miner damage. If you see discolored leaves which appear to have blisters, break them open to check for leaf miners. The leaf miners will appear as tiny green worms feeding between the layers of the leaf. These insects can be controlled by spraying Cygon, De-fend, or Diazinon. The spray application should be made about two weeks after new growth starts.

berry-producing plants that help provide food for birds. The National Wildlife Federation has an excellent booklet about things you can do in your yard to attract wildlife. It names trees and shrubs that will work in each part of the country. For a free copy of "Invite Wildlife to Your Backyard," write: The National Wildlife Federation, Dept. BH75, 1412 16th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

A Family of Squirrels

If you have big trees in your yard, make a nesting box for squirrels out of old wood, 20 inches high, 10 inches across with a 2 1/2 inch square hole in the top front. Attach the box to a tree trunk, near a branch, 20 to 30 feet off the ground. Putting a box this high in a tree can be a difficult job. Be sure to get some friends to help. Use strong wire padded with a length of old hose to keep from scarring the trunk. If there are squirrels in your neighborhood, it won't be long until some will be living in your yard.

USING SOYBEANS

Cooked soybeans are similar to green peas or lima beans in color and flavor but have a firmer texture. They are not soft or mealy. Season cooked soybeans with butter or margarine and serve as a vegetable or in favorite recipes in place of lima beans, suggests Rachel Kinlaw, extension food specialist, North Carolina State University.

POULTRY PRICES

Prices for broilers and turkeys are expected to rise during the first half of 1975, but egg prices are expected to decline seasonally despite some price gains around Easter.

Strawberries

Strawberry plants will start flowering very soon. Much of the Botrytis (grey mold) fruit rot begins as infections at flowering time. The fungus penetrates the small berry but remains dormant until the berry begins to ripen, then quickly rots the berry. Captan sprays should begin now. Captan is still the most economical and is very effective if properly applied.

Create a Habitat for Wildlife

Dogwood, serviceberry, cherry, sumac, autumn olive — these are just a few of the

1040 U.S. Individual Taxpayers Ask IRS

This column of questions and answers on federal tax matters is provided by the local office of the U. S. Internal Revenue Service and is published as a public service to taxpayers. The column answers questions most frequently asked by taxpayers.

Q. I have two installments of Federal taxes that I want to pay at the same time—the balance due on my 1974 tax liability and the first installment of my 1975 Declaration of Estimated Tax. Is it alright to pay these amounts with one check?

A. If you pay two Federal taxes at the same time, you should write separate checks or money orders. Place your social security number on the checks or money orders. Business taxpayers should use their employer identification numbers.

Q. I work full time, but I also make a little spending money from doing hairdressing at home. Do I have to pay self-employment tax on this sideline income?

A. You must file an income tax return and pay self-employment tax if you have net earnings from self-employment of \$400 or more, even if you are 65 or over and are receiving social security bene-

fits. If you had wages in 1974 that were subject to social security tax, you must subtract them from \$13,200, the 1974 wage base subject to social security tax, to determine the maximum amount subject to self-employment tax. If your wages subject to social security tax are at least \$13,200, none of your net earnings from self-employment as a hairdresser is subject to this tax. In 1975, the amount of wages subject to social security tax will increase from \$13,200 to \$14,100, but the rate for computing the tax will stay the same at 7.9 percent.

Q. How can I get an extension of time to file if I can't file my tax return by April 15?

A. You may receive an automatic two-month extension of time to file your tax return by filling out in duplicate Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. In filing

out Form 4868, you must make a tentative tax estimate for the year. The original of the application must be filed, on or before April 15, with the Internal Revenue Service Center for your area. You must also make full payment of any tax due with the application. The duplicate Form 4868 should be attached to the completed tax return when it is filed as evidence of the extension. You may not use Short Form 1040A or elect to have the IRS compute your tax if you apply for an extension of time to file.

Q. When am I supposed to file and pay my estimated tax for 1975?

A. Your declaration of estimated tax for the calendar year 1975 must be filed on or before April 15, 1975, the same date your income tax return for 1974 is due. Use Form 1040-ES, Declaration of Estimated Tax for Individuals. You may pay the estimated tax in four equal installments if you do not wish to pay the full amount when you file your declaration. The dates for paying the installments are April 15, June 16 and September 15 in 1975, and January 15, 1976.

Pecan Trees Need Food To Produce Good Crop

The size of the pecan harvest next fall will depend heavily on how adequately your trees' plant food needs are met.

Early March is a good time to fertilize pecan trees, according to North Carolina State University extension specialists. If your trees are on sandy soil, you may want to split the fertilizer applications, applying some now and more at blooming time.

Trees in production should be fertilized enough to maintain a minimum annual terminal twig growth of four to five inches, with six to

eight-inch growth being optimum.

Fertilizer needs can be determined by a soil test, which is a free service offered North Carolinians by the N. C. Department of Agriculture. If a soil test isn't taken, the following programs are suggested:

For young trees, apply one pound of 8-8-8 fertilizer with zinc after the tree has been set and the buds begin to break. This should be applied around the tree, one foot from the trunk. Increase this application one pound for each year of growth until the tree

comes into production. If the fertilizer used doesn't contain zinc, the zinc should be added at the rate of about one-half pound of zinc sulfate per year of age for young trees.

Bearing trees will need from two to three pounds of an 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 fertilizer per inch of di-

ameter of the tree trunk measured one foot above the ground. For trees not in good condition, use the three-pound rate.

The trees will bear normally only when they receive supplemental amounts of zinc.

Power to the powder room... 'right-on' decorating ideas!

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Use a large mirror or colorful painting to increase the size of the room. Add bold dashes of color. Lavatories now come in such bold colors as Antique Red, Blueberry, Sunflower, Tiger Lily, Espresso Brown and Black Black.

When you think of prescriptions, think of VARNER'S adv.

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