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Approved Practices For Growing Tobacco Plants

By L. T. Weeks, Assistant Extension Tobacco Specialist.

Farmers have realized that everything they can do to make a cigarette type of tobacco will mean more money when the crop is sold. Naturally at this season of the year they are beginning to think how they can manage their tobacco plant beds so that this step in the production of a crop will be an aim toward producing cigarette tobacco.

First of all, to have a successful crop it is essential to have thrifty, healthy plants when the proper time for transplanting arises. There are a number of conditions which may cause plant bed failures which are as follows: (1) Poor plant bed sites, (2) poor preparation of the soil, (3) improper fertilization of the beds, (4) planting on old beds that are diseased, (5) use of diseased seed and (6) improper handling of the beds during the growth period of the plants.

VARIETIES

The varieties that are planted should be considered very seriously because different varieties are adapted to different soils and climatic conditions. The variety selected should be capable of producing a quantity of high quality cigarette tobacco. Some of the leading varieties that may be used in the flue-cured belts of North Carolina are White Stem Orinoca, Virginia Bright Leaf, Jamaica Wrapper, Gold Dollar, Cash and Bonanzo.

If the grower saves his own seed, he should be careful in selecting a broad leaf plant with small fibres alternating along with the midrib and with the leaves properly spaced on the stalk. Tobacco of this description usually produces a better cigarette type than plants with narrow leaves or a plant with broad leaves, large stems and fibres. It is also necessary that the seed be cleaned. This will eliminate a lot of light and faulty seed that would cause a very low germination. Farmers may have their seed cleaned at the county agent's office or by the Vocational Agriculture Department.

When seed are purchased it is advisable to get certified seed because they are absolutely safe in every respect.

PLANT BED SITE

Where possible and practical select a new site each year for the tobacco plant bed or use at least a four-year rotation for the bed. This will help to eliminate the damage done by diseases that attack the small plants in the bed. The location of the bed should be well-drained with a southern or southwestern ex-

posure, selecting a site of a loamy type of soil and, if possible, near a water supply. If it is necessary to use an old bed site, it is advisable to burn or sterilize by steam.

SIZE AND PREPARATION OF THE BED

One hundred square yards of bed will normally produce from 10,000 to 15,000 plants. An excess of bed space should be seeded in an effort to insure and adequate supply of plants. It is also advisable to have several small beds, widely separated, on the farm rather than to have one large bed. By doing this is gives a chance for some of the beds to escape some disease or other condition that might be detrimental to the plants. All of the debris such as stumps and roots, should be removed from the bed where the site is selected in a wooded area. The soil should be pulverized finely by use of implements that are practical for the farm use, taking precaution not to break the soil too deeply. Three to four inches is usually sufficient.

FERTILIZATION OF THE BED

It has been proven that under normal conditions where 200 pounds of a 4-8-3 mixture for each 100 square yards is used will give satisfactory results. However, if a low grade of fertilizer is used, it is advisable to supplement with 50 to 100 pounds of cottonseed meal mixing the meal thoroughly with the soil. The fertilizer should be broadcast on the bed and mixed with the upper 3 or 4 inches of soil. A light sprinkle of hog pen manure may be used to an advantage by applying it on the soil in the same manner of the fertilizer. However, avoid the use of any manure that might contain tobacco leaves, stalks, or trash because there is a possibility of infesting the new bed with a disease that might live over on the old tobacco.

After the plants germinate and start to growing if they do not appear to be growing as thrifty as they should, a light application of nitrate of soda may be used. Apply this on the bed on a wet day or late in the afternoon. Use about 4 to 6 pounds per 100 square yards and be sure that not any of the soda is left on the leaves of the plants. If the plants are so large that is removed from them, it may be removed by taking a small limb or bush with grown leaves on it and brush lightly over the plants without injury to them.

SEEDING THE BED

(Continued on Page 3.)

New Gym Opens At Sandy Ridge — Other News

Sandy Ridge, Jan. 10—The opening of the new gymnasium at Sandy Ridge high school Friday night was a great success. Brunswick and oyster stew, drinks and pies were sold to a large crowd. String music was furnished by Carter - White string band of Mayodan. An old time square dance was given with local people participating. The first ball game ever played in the new gymnasium was a very interesting one, between Pine Hall and Sandy Ridge. The score for the girls being 37 and 16 in favor of Pine Hall; boys 31 and 19 in favor of Sandy Ridge.

PERSONALS

Misses Olive Joyce and Bertha Venable spent Saturday night with Miss Esther Dodson.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Wall and daughter, Emrogene spent the week-end with relatives in Liberty.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Hawkins and family were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Priddy of Danbury Sunday.

Mr. Wilbert Wood is confined to his bed with tonsillitis his friends will regret to learn.

Mr. and Mrs. Lovis Joyce of Madison spent Friday night with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Joyce.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Maxey were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hilary Chapman Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Lovis Joyce were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clint Dodson.

J. M. Hawkins attended a meeting for fertilizer salesmen in Mt. Airy Thursday night.

Mrs. J. M. Hawkins and Mrs. Hilary Chapman visited Mrs. Jennie Ward, who is ill, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dodson have moved into their new home near Prestonville.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Duncan visited Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hawkins Sunday night.

Mrs. Bill Ward has returned to High Point after having spent some time with Mrs. Sam Ward.

High Point To Be Restrained By Yadkin County

Yadkin county commissioners have announced that they will sue for a restraining order this week to prevent High Point from erecting a power dam in Yadkin county which will cost the taxpayers of the county many thousands of dollars by destroying taxable property. It has been ruled by the courts that a municipal corporation can seize property in another county or city without paying any taxes on the confiscated area.

G. H. Alford visited Raleigh this week. Mr. Alford is head of the federal crop and feed loan agency of the county.

Tobacco Control And Where

Editor Reporter:

Since the tobacco farmers spoke in no uncertain terms on December 10 on the question of the so-called tobacco control act, it is up to someone, and preferably the grower, to figure out some way that will be beneficial to that great army of farmers who grow tobacco. It seems there are many ways of looking at the results of this election. One view that is held by no small group is that the farmer does not know what he wants and therefore changes his mind from one year to another. Another view is that the farmers resented the method of administration of the control law, rather than the principle of reduction. Another group, and a rather sizeable group it is, that did not object to the principle of the law, and neither did they object to the administration of the act but opposed it on the ground that the actual results in the law and its administration did not actually control and therefore did not help up the price when the tobacco was put on the market. Each of these groups have their arguments and they are not timid in presenting them. Many good points are being brought out from the contentions of all these groups and here is hoping that much good will finally be derived from this exchange of ideas. With this in view I wish to present a few facts that will have to be taken into consideration before any new system can be devised to actually help the farmer.

In the first place it is a fact that when the farmers voted to control the 1938 crop they did not know much about what they were voting for, much less anything about the manner of its administration. They were voting with a hope and that was about all most of us knew about it. Then when the 1938 crop was harvested and prepared for the market, he was not hoping then for he knew he had one of the finest crops of tobacco that had ever been grown in these parts. However, when he put his crop on the market he finally observed, according to government reports, the price did not average as well as in 1937, with no control. He also discovered that the man who totally disregarded the act in his planting was able to sell his crop by merely purchasing of cards at a price of from one to 4 cents a lb. Moreover there was little difficulty in finding surplus cards on the market.

This item of the system could not mestics and foreign production tobacco. This on the face of it be approved or justified by even those who had received a surplus of poundage, and it doubtless contributed a small amount to the defeat of the act.

Another phase of the whole set up that seems to be bothering the minds of some of our agriculturo

MEAT CANNING DEMONSTRATIONS

LADY EXPERT COMING TO
WALNUT COVE AND KING
JANUARY 16-17—PUBLIC INVITED.

Mrs. Chas. Cloaninger, representative of the Ball Jar Co., will give two meat canning demonstrations in Stokes county, as follows:

At Walnut Cove high school economics laboratory on Monday January 16, 1939, at 1:30 p. m.

At King woman's club house on Tuesday, January 17, 1939, at 1:30 p. m.

These meetings have been arranged by Miss Ellen Jenkins, Stokes home demonstration agent, and the public is cordially invited to attend them.

Mrs. Cloaninger is a graduate of Winthrop College. She taught home economics for several years, supervised a school canning kitchen, and has given canning demonstrations in cooperation with the Farm Security Administration in South Carolina.

Will Thomasville Invoke The Dam?

It is reported that the city of Thomasville is interested in the huge hydro-electric possibilities of the Dan here, and may at an early date take over the project to furnish lights and power to Thomasville.

Recently High Point selected the Yadkin instead of the Dan for its power, and has already started work on the project to insure the proposed loan or grant from the federal government.

H. M. Joyce has been quite ill recently at his home here. He is suffering with a deep cold.

Leaders whose views were positively expressed and widely quoted was the question of domestic and (?????) production and its influence on price. In 1938 the United States was producing all but 16 per cent. of the flue cured tobacco in the world. In 1937 other countries were producing 47 per cent. of the flue cured tobacco. This on the pace of it looks as if the time is rapidly approaching when we will have to consume in the United States practically all the tobacco that we grow. When this time arrives we will be trying to lift ourselves with our own boot straps. Therefore, according to the State College economists, we need some official that is sufficiently interested in the tobacco farmer to arrange trade agreements with a few nations by which we could trade a few million pounds of tobacco for a few million yards of silk and pounds of rubber. Its a big question for the farmer to have to pay the price alone. So lets have have you... it may be just the thin... need.

I... fully,
N. S. ALLCAN.

COLUMBUS BOYLES DIES AT KING

KING FARMERS MAKING
PREPARATIONS FOR 1939
CROP—AUSTIN GARNER TO
BUILD—OTHER NEWS OF
KING.

King, Jan. 11—The weather was fine here last week. People going in shirt sleeves on the streets made it look like good old summer time.

Joseph E. Huffman of Thomasville has accepted a position as manager of the Cut Rate Furniture Company on Depot Street. Mr. Huffman has moved his family here.

Garfield Doss has leased a farm near High Point and will move his family there.

Albert Boles of Monroe, Va., is spending a fortnight with his brother, Bill Boles, in Five Forks, just south of town.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shore of Tobaccoville are on a trip to Florida. They expect to be gone about six weeks.

There is some improvement in the condition of Mrs. John McGee, who has been quite sick at her home here for several days.

Austin Garner is preparing to erect a new home on Dan River street. Actual construction will be commenced within a few days.

Edwin Jessup, who sold his farm just north of town a few days since, has gone to Alabama to look for a location.

Holbin Johnson, poultry fancier of Mizpah, was a business visitor here Saturday.

Farmers in this section are beginning to sow plant beds in preparation for another tobacco crop.

Olester Knight of Newark, New Jersey is visiting relatives here. Mr. Knight was reared here.

The stork had another light week's work, only two births being recorded. They were: To Mr. and Mrs. T. G. New, Jr., a daughter and to Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Thomas, a daughter.

Worth Kiger of the United State Army, stationed at Fort Bragg, is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Piercecon Kiser.

Columbus Boyles, aged 67, died at his home near the Val Boyles store Tuesday from a heart attack. He had been in bad health for some time. The deceased, who was a tobacco grower, is survived by several sons and daughters. The funeral service, which was in charge of Rev. E. T. Sims and Rev. L. A. Burrus, was conducted at Mor. Olive Church Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock and burial followed in the church cemetery.

Marjorie Peppers, who has been ill at the Baptist hospital, Winston-Salem, since Jan. 1, is not perceptibly improved, though she is resting well.