



Mix Sand, Soil and Peat for Winter Seed Starter

When garden seeds are sown indoors, long before it is safe to begin outdoor operations, much will depend upon the soil used to fill the seed box. If this was not brought inside before the ground froze in the fall, it should be dug, and placed under shelter where it will thaw out gradually.

If you try to dry soil quickly, with considerable heat, you will make it very muddy at first, and lumpy thereafter. This will be difficult when what you want is a crumbly soil. Slow thawing will do the work, so do not try to rush things.

Even though you have taken the best top soil from your garden—as you should—it will still need mixing with sand to make it looser, and humus to increase its water holding capacity. Peat moss or leaf mould will supply satisfactory humus, but do not use manure, even when well rotted, in soil to be used to start seeds. Nor should plant food be used, lest too much nitrogen be supplied for the health of the seed sprouts.

A third top soil, a third peat moss or leaf mould, and a third sharp sand, such as masons use in

concrete will make a satisfactory mixture. After it is well mixed pass it through a sieve, about 1/4 inch mesh; and keep the coarser particles in a pile, to be used in the bottom of the seed boxes. The finer soil is then filled in to the level of the box; it will settle quickly.

Sphagnum moss may be spread in a layer on top of the soil, if it is desired as a means of protecting the seedlings from "damping off" and other diseases. If soil is prepared by this method, there will be no need for feeding the seedling plants until they have reached transplanting size.

Two substitutes for soil which may be used in seed boxes are vermiculite, a form of mica used to insulate buildings, and sphagnum moss. These are sterile substances which have many advantages, being much lighter than soil; but they are entirely lacking in plant food and if used the plants must be fed as soon as they have made true leaves, (their second pair) with water, in each gallon of which a tablespoon of your garden plant food has been stirred.

Lewis Turner, 81, Claimed By Death

Funeral services for Lewis E. Turner, 81, of Marion, who died Wednesday afternoon in a Marion hospital after a brief illness, was held Friday at 2 p. m. in Nebo Methodist church.

The Rev. H. R. Cornelious, the Rev. R. S. Burrows and the Rev. R. C. Frazier officiated and burial was in the family plot in Nebo cemetery.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter, W. H. Turner of Marion, Grover C. Turner and Mrs. J. M. Lawson of Lenoir; two step sons, R. L. Brown of Lenoir and John Brown of Marion; 14 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

SWEET POTATO GROWERS REPORT GOOD PROFITS

Commercial sweet potato production is proving to be a profitable enterprise for Negro farmers in Halifax county, reports Negro County Agent D. J. Knight of the State College Extension Service.

Forty-two farmers produced about 7,500 bushels of potatoes in 1948. About 6,000 bushels of these were stored co-operatively in 12 tobacco barns.

An average yield of 250 bushels per acre, was reported by the 42 growers. Billie Simmons of Piney Grove community reported the highest yield, which was 410 bushels per acre.

Wilie B. Williams of Daniel Chapel community stored the largest number of baskets, a total of 625. Other farmers conducting storage and curing demonstrations were Osa Baker of Draper, Henry Alston of Eastman, B. D. Hardy of Wayman, Johnnie Hawkins of Print, Lewis Thomas of Tilley Chapel, Russell Prunell of Diololia, Walter Knight of Dawson, J. M. Scott and A. T. Taylor of Daniel Chapel.

A total of 2,714,000 chicks were produced by commercial hatcheries in the State during November. This figure compares with 1,499,000 hatched in November, 1947, and an average of 1,608,000 hatched during November in the years 1942-46.

NATIONAL FARM NEWS

The nation's commercial hatcheries produced 58,576,000 chicks in November to set a new record for the month.

The average cost of the United States farm poultry ration in mid-November was \$3.59 per 100 pounds. Mainly because of lower feed prices, the egg-fed ratio is the most favorable since 1943, the chicken-feed ratio the most favorable since 1944, and the turkey-feed ration the most favorable since 1931.

For the tenth consecutive year, fertilizer use in the United States is setting a new season record.

The number of milk cows on farms in November was the smallest for the month in 18 years.

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100-BUSHEL CORN CLUB SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

"Are you a member of the North Carolina 100-Bushel Corn Club? If not, look up one of your neighbors who is a member, and get him to sponsor you for membership in 1949."

That's the advice given to Tar Hill farmers this week by Dr. E. R. Collins, in charge of agronomy extension at State College.

Every adult farmer, 4-H club or FFA member who belongs to the 100-Bushel club will be asked to sponsor another person for membership this year, Dr. Collins said. As a reward, each sponsor will receive an allocation of nitrogen topdressing sufficient to take care of his own corn crop and that of the person he is sponsoring.

The two growers will be expected to confer frequently concerning the choice of hybrid seed, spacing, cultivating and fertilizing practices which will result in the highest yields.

Members who decide to accept the sponsoring offer should notify their county agent. In counties distributors will ship the topdressing material in carload lots. Farmers will be required to accept delivery as soon as the material arrives in January, February, or March.

The 100-Bushel Club, started in 1945 for the purpose of encouraging the use of hybrid varieties and better production practices, reached a membership of 638 in 1947. The total may exceed 1,500 when all reports have been received for 1948.

The club is considered one of the

major factors responsible for raising the State's average corn yield from 23 bushels per acre in 1945 to an estimated 33 bushels per acre in 1948.

Some Fruits Require Much Less Attention

By JOHN H. HARRIS (N. C. State College)

The two-acre home orchards of the past have about disappeared. Better marketing facilities and increasing problems in disease and insect control have helped to bring this about. There is still a place, however, for home grown fruits.

Most home owners and horticulturists now agree that it is more advisable to use fewer trees, give them better attention and concentrate largely on fruits that require little spraying.

Yes, it's not only possible to grow your own home fruit supply, but it's profitable and practical. Perhaps we should add an "if"—if you have sufficient interest. With the rapid increase in home freezer lockers, there is more incentive than ever to grow your own fruit supply. In many cases it is advisable to grow enough to have a surplus to sell. There's a scarcity of locally grown trees or vine ripened fruit in nearly every community.

Nutritionists have advised us for years to eat two fruits daily to help meet our body's requirements. Actually most of us come nearer eating two fruits weekly than we do daily. As long as we have to buy all our fruits the chances are our diets will be deficient in fruits.

Fruits require much less attention than others. They are all going to require some attention, so don't expect something for nothing.

Here is a list of fruits and nuts that, while requiring some attention, do not usually require spraying. Spraying is the hardest job to get done because of the equipment necessary. This list includes strawberries, figs, pecans, boysenberries, grapes, blackberries, rabbiteye blueberries, walnuts, pears, cherries, Japanese persimmons, and chestnuts.

Fall is the ideal time for planting these plants. If you can't get it done this winter and early spring are all right. A majority of the plants listed above can be used as part of the landscape material in your yard. Pecans, for instance, make ideal shade trees; figs can be used along the side of the yard, blueberries make a fine background.

Plant your orchard and then expect it to shift for itself. You will need to prune, fertilize, spray, keep out the grass—in short, you will have to give your orchard some attention.

Up to 1900 the oil industry in the United States produced about a billion barrels of oil—about seven months' production today.

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WORKMAN'S

GET AHEAD FAST!

Young man, chances to further your education and opportunities to get ahead fast are yours in the new U. S. Army and U. S. Air Force. You owe it to your future to investigate full details today! You can get the best of training under the most skilled experts in the world. For ladies, too, there's opportunity for education and rapid advancement in those fine organizations, the WAC and the WAF. It's a grand and glorious feeling to know that you are really on the road to a successful career. You'll work with congenial people, folks like yourself who are ambitious and interested in building a secure future for themselves. Leadership is at a premium these days, and you can learn to be a leader through the educational opportunities of the new Army and Air Force. Talk it over frankly with a trained personnel expert, your U. S. Army and U. S. Air Force Recruiter. He's at the U. S. Army and U. S. Air Force Recruiting Station, located at Marion Post Office, Marion, N. C. See him at once about enlisting in a career with a future.