

Soil Conservation News

Time Spent In Woodland Can Be Very Profitable

By NAT B. WHITE, In Warren County the tobacco crop has been sold, most of the cotton picked, and farmers have some time to give to improving their farms. The time a farmer spends in his woodland will pay him as much in return as any time he spends on his farm. Woodland, like crops, need to be planted, replanted, weeded, thinned, and harvested in an orderly manner.

There are thousands of acres of woodland in Warren County that produce no income at all, thousands of acres that produce only a fraction of what they could produce, and thousands of acres from which some pulpwood or timber should be harvested. Farmers can do this work during the winter months, adding to their income and increasing the value of their farms.

During recent years farmers have become much more interested in their woodlands and more work has been done to improve them than ever before.

Brush land is being converted to loblolly pine, marginal and submarginal land is being planted to pine, stands are being thinned and harvested in an orderly manner. By using good forestry practices farmers are increasing their income and making a substantial contribution to the economy of Warren County.

Thanksgiving Celebrated For Many Centuries

The Pilgrims were joining some strange company when they declared a Thanksgiving celebration in 1621. For the practice of giving thanks for a plentiful harvest goes back almost to the time when man first gave up wandering and hitched himself to a plow.

Along the Mediterranean, ancient peoples held festivals at harvest time in honor of a mother goddess. The Semites called her Astarte, while the Phrygians named her Semele.

The Romans honored Ceres, the goddess of agriculture, in a celebration called the Cerealia, reports World Book Encyclopedia. And the Greeks paid tribute to Demeter in secret rites called the Elusian Mysteries.

Christianity put an end to many of these festivals, but a pagan-inspired belief in the Corn Mother, or the Mother of Grains, survived among some peasants in the British Isles and Europe. Her spirit was thought to live in the last sheaf of grain left standing in the field.

In northern England, the last handful of corn was the "kern," and sometimes it was fashioned into a "kern doll." In Austria it was shaped into a wreath and placed on the head of a girl who became the harvest queen.

During the Middle Ages the most common thanksgiving and harvest festival was held on the Feast of Saint Martin of Tours, or Martinmas, on November 11. People throughout Europe still celebrate the day with feasts and new wine.

The Pilgrims probably became familiar with this celebration when they went to Holland to escape persecution in England, and it may have been the remembrance of this holiday that inspired them to hold a thanksgiving feast after their first prosperous year in the New World.

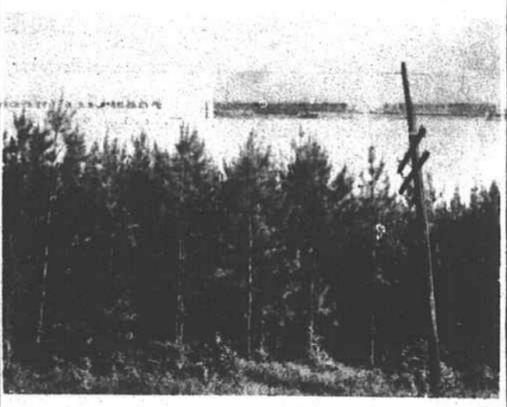
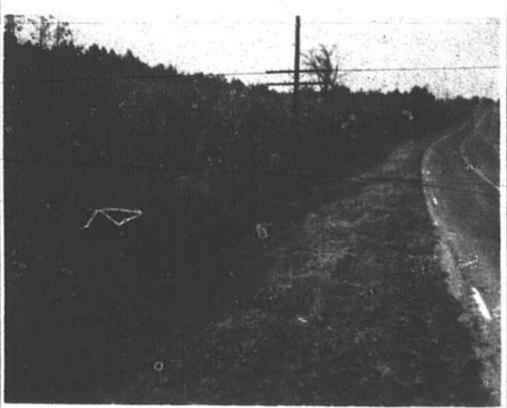
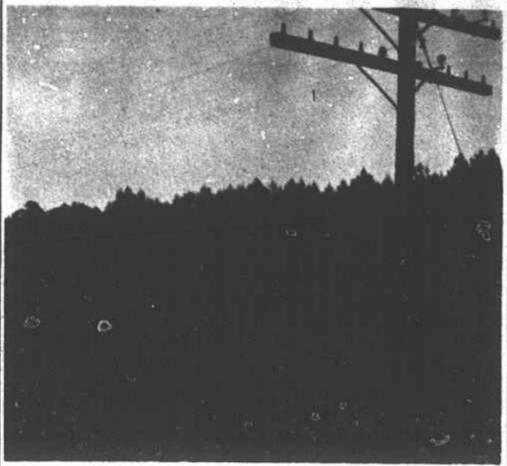
Farmer Makes Big Peanut Yield

HALIFAX—William Pierce, III, of Weldon is like many peanut producers in that he thought it would be almost impossible to produce two tons of peanuts on an acre, says Clyde D. Peedin, Halifax County extension chairman.

The Pierces rented 30 acres of their peanut allotment to William Dickens who made the 3-Ton Club in 1960. This year on Pierce's farm, he produced over two tons per acre in some fields and average about 3,000 pounds on 30 acres.

Pierce is now convinced that his farm can yield two tons per acre.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently purchased almost one million pounds of dried whole eggs to distribute for school lunches and institutional use.



Those traveling over Route 401 about two miles south of Warrenton have been impressed with the growth of young pine trees in recent years. The trees, near the home of Carl Pinnell, were planted by Commissioner Richard Davis in 1950. Their growth is shown in three pictures taken by the Soil Conservation Service. The top picture was taken in 1954, when the seedlings were four years old. The middle picture was taken in 1957 and the bottom picture was taken in 1962.

All Depends A city boy on a night hike in the Rocky Mountains inquired of the guide, "Is it true a grizzly won't attack you if you're carrying a flashlight?" "That depends," said the guide, "on how fast you're carrying it."

It happened 100 YEARS ago

The oldest incorporated trade association in the country, the United States Brewers Association, was organized in 1862 . . . the same year that



IN NORTH CAROLINA arrangements were made to transfer the Confederacy's naval ordnance center from Norfolk to Charlotte because of inland safety and good railroad to Wilmington. North Carolinians saluted this new commerce with glasses of beer.

For even then, beer was North Carolina's traditional beverage of moderation. Beer still provides enjoyment for North Carolinians, and a good living for many of them—not only the employees of the Brewing Industry itself, but also for North Carolina farmers and other suppliers of the materials brewers use.

TODAY, in its centennial year, the United States Brewers Association still works constantly to assure maintenance of high standards of quality and propriety wherever beer and ale are served.



Blessings Of The Soil Are Reasons For Giving Thanks

The Pilgrims gave thanks for the bounty of the land on the first Thanksgiving Day and the people of North Carolina can do the same on Thanksgiving Day 1962.

The production of Tar Heel cropland has been bountiful again and throughout the nation this must be regarded as a good crop year, points out Frank Doggett, extension agronomist at North Carolina State College.

"We had a little too much rain in the summer in the east and it was too dry in the southern Piedmont, but a few areas always suffer adverse weather conditions," said Doggett.

The agronomist pointed out that North Carolina farmers have set new records in the production of corn and tobacco "and the production of other crops is nothing to be ashamed of."

The Department of Agriculture estimates a corn crop of 68½ million bushels. This is about a million bushels over last year's crop and it was produced on six per cent less land.

Doggett said the average yield per acre was a record 52 bushels, four above last year.

Ever wonder what the Pilgrims gave thanks for?

Flue-cured tobacco production is at a new record of 1,800 pounds per acre, or about five per cent over the total production of last year.

While the quality is said to be down slightly and with it the average price, the golden leaf remains a big part of the state's agricultural income—quite enough to be thankful for.

The peanut crop is expected to yield an average of 1,850 pounds per acre, about 10 pounds per acre less than the record yield in 1958. The total state production is expected to be well over 325 million pounds, according to Doggett.

The soybean forecast is for 13 million bushels or 23 bushels per acre, about one-half bushel below last year but more than double the state average for the last 10 years.

Cotton production should reach 280,000 bales, slightly

better than last year.

Small grain and grain sorghum are considerably down this year, said Doggett, explaining that weather conditions at planting time for these two crops were poor.

All of this is the "blessings of the soil." Yet, in some areas, it is considered a burden, because of the surplus, instead of something to be thankful for.

"The United States is probably the only place in

the world in which the bounty of the soil would be considered a burden rather than a blessing," Doggett surmised.

He added a thought: "It is hard to appreciate the tragedy of too little when you have always had more than enough."

Snuffed Out Burning the candle at both ends is one way to go out like a light.



This is house plant time. House plants are always popular and there are many kinds to choose from. Some grow well under the unnatural conditions found in the average home while others are distinctly difficult.

There are many ways that plants can be arranged in the house such as shelves, in brackets, on benches, window sills and tiered stands. Regardless of the arrangement used, the plants should be placed where they will receive sufficient light.

Plants that receive too little light have a tendency to be thin and spindly, bend markedly toward the source of light and to flower sparsely or not at all. Too strong light may result in the loss of green color and a browning of the leaves. The light requirements can be adjusted somewhat by the use of incandescent or fluorescent lights.

The lack of sufficient humidity is a common cause of failure of house plants, especially during the time when the house is heated. Common symptoms are drooping of leaves and a gradual drying up and browning of the foliage. Relative humidity is difficult to control but it will help some to keep plants away from radiators and other sources of dry heat.

Temperature, like light, is

frequently difficult to control in the home. Tropical plants do well at a day temperature of 68-70 degrees F and may drop 10 degrees lower at night. However, sharp fluctuations in temperature should be avoided. Examples of some of the tropical plants that will do well at the temperature ranges mentioned are philodendrons, dracaenas palms, rubber plants, snake plants (Sansevieria) and ferns. Geraniums, fuchsias, English ivy and fatsihedra like cool temperatures, even below 60 degrees.

Watering is very important, especially when the plants are in active growth. While it is not possible to give an accurate schedule for all plants, it may be safe to say that, when watering, soak the mass of soil and be sure that ample provision has been made for drainage at the bottom of the container. It does not matter whether the water is applied to the top of the soil or allowed to soak up from the bottom.

Over-watering may be one of the more common errors in the growing of house plants. This may occur if you water too frequently.

While the water-temperature is not of great importance, it is best to use water at room temperature during the winter. Rain water is excellent if you take the trouble to collect it.

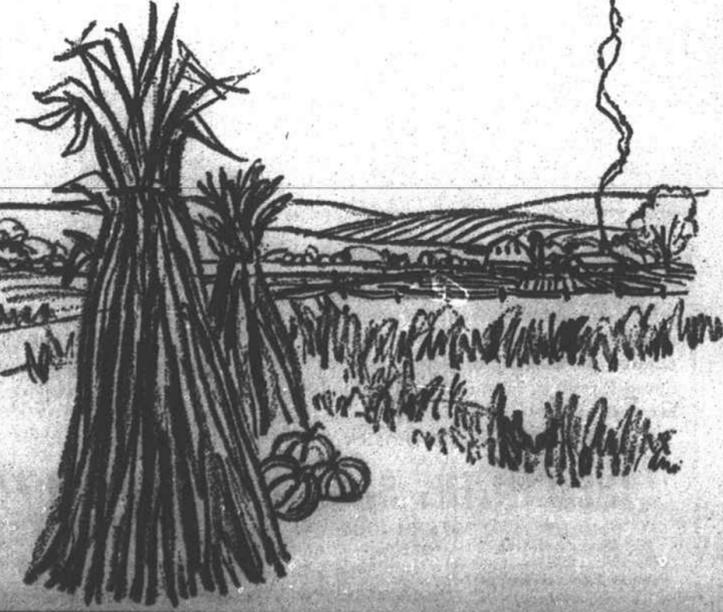
THANKSGIVING

We give Thee thanks, dear Lord, for these: For ripening fields and laden trees, For festive tables richly spread And love that sweetens daily bread. For homes and homeland free from strife, For all the small, sweet joys of life. But most of all, that we are free To speak, to think, to worship Thee, Each as he wills. Lord, help us share These gifts with all men everywhere!

Maureen Murdoch

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Finds Profit In Christmas Trees

BAKERSVILLE — Robert Glass, farmer of the Spruce Pine section, is quite pleased with the "operation nursery" he has going on his farm.

Several years ago, he set out quite a number of white pines and other nursery plants and these will soon be of salable age. "We plan to put out more all along as we think that growing these will be quite profitable," Glass told G. W. Conrad, agricultural extension agent.

Balsams for Christmas trees are another plant in which there is a profit, Conrad explained. One acre of land will grow 5,000 Christmas trees that will sell at \$1-\$3 a tree, seven to nine years. This amounts to about \$1,000 per acre per year.

"How many other farming operations pay \$1,000 per acre per year?" asks Conrad.

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