

**Agriculturally Speaking**

# What Is The Reason For Poor Tobacco Crop?

**By L. B. HARDAGE**  
Did you make a good crop of tobacco in 1975, a medium or fair one, or a poor crop? Wherever you fit, would you be willing to determine why your crop fell below normal, normal, or above average?

Naturally, the first reaction if you had a poor crop is to blame the weather and certainly this was a factor on many farms, but not the only one.

(a) Did you have plenty of good plants early enough to make a good crop?

(b) Did you use enough fertilizer or too much fertilizer?

(c) If needed after all the rain, did you replace the nitrogen and in some cases potash?

(d) When was the crop transplanted?

(e) Did you use a variety that had good black shank and nematode resistance?

(f) Did you treat for nematode and other diseases?

(g) Did you keep up with harvesting of crop as it was ready?

(h) What about topping at the bottom stage?

(i) Did you use a good sucker control program?

(j) What about insect control?

(k) Did you do a good job of curing and marketing your crop?

(l) How did your crop

## Three-B's Hold Monthly Meeting

The Three-B's held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6 o'clock. The meeting was called to order by the president.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited followed by the 4-H Pledge, the Lord's Prayer and the song, "My Country 'Tis of Thee." The roll was called and the minutes were read. All old business was discussed.

New business was as follows: electing of new officers for 1976, and selecting new projects and 1976.

The meeting was adjourned by repeating the "4-H Motto."— Danny Pitchford, Reporter.

compare with your neighbors crop? Notice real often that there is a real difference in crops that are next to each other, due to a lot of factors.

It seems to me that we have a real opportunity in Warren County to make some money on tobacco in 1976.

The support price will be increased to around \$1.04 per pound average for the 1976 crop. However, this will not be a blanket increase as I understand, it will be on the better grades of tobacco.

With the increase in prices for the 1976 crop and costs predicted to be about the same as last year, it would seem that a fair profit could be expected for the '76 crop.

There should be plenty of tobacco pounds available at a reasonable price in the county, therefore, most farmers who want to increase total production should be able to secure extra pounds.

## Pruning Time For Plants Different

There are right times and wrong times to prune plants, and now is the right time for summer flowering shrubs such as crepe myrtle and hybrid tea roses.

These two plants can be heavily pruned anytime during the dormant period, according to North Carolina State University extension specialists.

Spring flowering shrubs may be pruned lightly now, if you feel it is necessary to reduce the size of the plant. However, heavy pruning of these plants, such as spirea forsythia (golden bells) and climbing roses should be done immediately after they finish blooming in the spring.

**Poisonous?**  
Thought to be poisonous, tomatoes were not eaten in 1825, although they had been an Italian staple food since the 1500's.

Thelma Loyace Stovall is the first woman in Kentucky to become lieutenant governor.

# Cotton Crop Disappearing From Warren

Cotton, which a half-century ago was Warren County's leading crop, by last year had declined a point where less than 100 acres were under cultivation.

The decline in cotton production, and dramatic increases in per acre yields of other Warren County crops, is reflected in the 1975 Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service report mailed county farmers this week.

In 1925, the report disclosed, cotton was harvested on 32,800 Warren acres, with a 306 pounds per acre yield. By 1974, cotton acreage had fallen to 99 acres, with a 100 pound per acre average yield. During the 50-year period, cotton prices had risen from 19.5 cents to 43.3 cents per pound.

The look at prior year agricultural statistics showed that tobacco production had increased substantially, due mainly to higher per acre yields. In 1925 a total of 5,480 acres were harvested, with an average of 735 pounds per acre realized and a price of 23.8 cents per pound received. In 1974, 4,959 acres were harvested with a yield of 1,624 pounds per acre. That year the crop averaged \$1.04 per pound.

Increased production was seen in wheat, where a four-fold increase was noted after a half-century of record keeping. In 1925, an average of 10.1 bushels was harvested on 810 acres for an average price of \$1.88 per bushel. In 1974, the per bushel yield was up to 40 bushels an acre on 3,090 acres for an average per bushel price of 3.30.

Gains in corn production were the highest. In 1925 Warren farmers produced an average of 13 bushels per acre on 23,590 acres for a price of \$1.21 per bushel. By 1974 the production figure had climbed to 60 bushels an acre on only 6,594 acres, at an average price of \$3.40 per bushel.

**Charity**  
December is a popular month for charity. Fact is the virtue has now turned into an industry. One outfit collected over \$3 million—without a telephone or a disease for publicity.

Queen Elizabeth has been on the throne since 1952.

# Plastic Covers Bring Changes

The switch from cloth to plastic plant bed covers has changed management requirements in the production of tobacco transplants. Failure of some growers to allow for the changes has resulted in poor production.

North Carolina State University extension tobacco specialists have developed a "recipe"

for growing plants under perforated plastic. It is designed to fit most growing conditions and to provide maximum potential for high quality transplants.

They suggest seeding 80 to 100 square yards of plant bed for each acre of tobacco to be planted. Prepare the seedbed well. Use 50 to 75 pounds of

12-6-6 fertilizer per 100 square yards and disc it into the top two to three inches of soil.

Fumigate with methyl bromide when soil moisture is right for cultivation and air temperature is 55 degrees or higher. This can be done best in the fall.

Aerate the soil 48 hours after fumigation, but leave the solid

plastic cover on the bed until seeding time. Perforate the plastic before removing it from the bed to seed, using quarter-inch holes two inches apart.

Seed bed 60 days prior to earliest transplanting date. Use one-sixth of an ounce of seed per 100 square yards of bed.

Put down a thin layer of clean

straw to support the cover. Irrigate enough to thoroughly wet the soil immediately after seeding. Cover with perforated plastic immediately after irrigation.

Check on the bed frequently and treat for insects and damping off when needed. Start blue mold treatments when plastic cover is removed.

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# Virgil T. Grissom

Mr. Grissom is a farmer and life-long resident of the Gillburg Community of Vance County. A warehouseman whose experience dates back to 1950, he has been on the Whiteville Tobacco Market for the past 10 years.



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