

## Agriculturally Speaking

By RUSSELL C. KING  
County Extension Chairman



I have received numerous phone calls during the past several weeks concerning assessment of winter damage to landscape plants. Damage has been severe and the following facts should help you assess your damage.

1. Warm fall temperatures resulted in plants continuing growth right up to early January. Shoots and roots never had a chance to harden off.
2. The following plants received severe damage in Warren County — ligustrum, photinia, wax myrtle, gardenia, azaleas, camellias, Indian hawthorn, and osmanthus.
3. Temperatures reached an all time record low.
4. Very low humidity resulted in dessication of leaves.
5. Many of your plants are still in a weak condition from last year's damage.

For plants that have not been killed completely, this would be a good year to do some severe pruning. This will not only rejuvenate the plant, but it will also result in a more branched and compact plant. Prune damaged plants back to live wood. Do not overfertilize heavily pruned plants and keep watered.

For more information on landscape maintenance, contact me at the Warren County Agricultural Extension Office.



FFA members participating in last week's parliamentary procedure contest are, left to right, Lloyd Earl Tucker, sentinel, Beverly Rooker,

secretary, Finley Neal, treasurer, Rita Norwood, president, Russell Norwood, vice president and Donna McCowan, reporter.

## Warren Is Host For FFA Contest

By RUSSELL NORWOOD

The Warren County Chapter of the Future Farmers of America hosted the annual parliamentary procedure contest at the high school for the Franklin-Warren Federation last week.

The Warren County team consisting of Rita Norwood, president; Russell Norwood, vice president; Lloyd Tucker, sentinel; Donna McCowan, reporter; Finley Neal, treasurer; Beverly Rooker, secretary; and Erich Hecht, advisor, took first place over Bunn

and Franklin County and received \$25 for their accomplishment. They will travel to the district competition later in the year.

Special appreciation goes out to the judges of the contest, Clint Hege of Norlina Middle School and Roosevelt Alston of Warren County High School, and also to Michael Neal who kept time for the contest.

### Monsoons

The basic physics of monsoons was described 300 years ago, but so far no one has pieced together the entire mechanism or fully understood their behavior, says National Geographic.

## Judging Clinic Set

By CHET W. MAXEY  
Assistant Agricultural Extension Agent

The March 23 livestock judging clinic and contest was held at the Johnston County Livestock Arena near Smithfield. Team members participating in the event included Jim West, Dan West, Nat West and Mike Lynch of Littleton; Henry Pulley and Ben Pulley of Macon, and John Riggan of Warrenton. The contest was very informative as well as competitive, with over 100 juniors and seniors participating. Three

members of the senior judging team placed in the overall top ten senior division: Dan West, sixth place; Ben Pulley, seventh place; and Jim West, ninth place.

The North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, sex, color, creed, national origin, age or handicap. We want to encourage participation in these events as well as others. Please contact Chet Maxey at 257-3640, if you would like to join the team.

## Variety Choice Important With Tomatoes

It doesn't take great gardening skill to grow tomatoes, but your degree of success with this favorite of all home garden crops will increase with a few simple precautions.

First, buy only fresh, healthy transplants. Size isn't of great importance. In fact the medium or smaller plants may be better than the long, overgrown plants. Container grown plants are best.

Second, buy varieties that are resistant to fusarium wilt. This disease is found almost everywhere in North Carolina and it's very likely to take its toll on your tomatoes sooner or later, if the variety is susceptible to the organism.

Agricultural Extension Service specialists at North Carolina State University also suggest that your planting site be well drained and have good exposure to the sun.

There is bound to be a place like this around the garden or home somewhere. You don't even have to confine your tomatoes to the garden. They can be planted in open spots

among foundation shrubs, provided the soil is right and there is plenty of sun. You can even plant them in buckets or baskets, as long as you use a good soil in the planter.

A single tomato plant can produce a bountiful harvest, if all you want is enough for the table.

When planting in the garden, rotate your tomato site to avoid a buildup of disease organisms.

If the garden soil hasn't been limed in several years, apply two large handfuls of agricultural lime and one handful of 8-8-8 fertilizer for each plant and work the material into the soil to a depth of about one foot.

Apply one to two inches of compost, peat-moss or other forms of organic matter and work into the soil, also. This is especially impor-

tant in soils with little or no organic matter content.

Mulch plants immediately after setting them out. Use pine straw, peanut hulls, black plastic, a double or triple layer of old newspapers or some other suitable material. This will keep grass and weeds out and help conserve moisture.

Tomatoes should be supported as they grow with a stake, trellis or wire cylinder.

Around the first of June, July and August, sidedress with a small amount of nitrogen fertilizer. If you don't have nitrogen available, a half-cup of 8-8-8 will be sufficient.

If you can keep the

wilt diseases off and keep the plants well watered, they should bear until the first killing frost of fall.

### Leaders Game

### Termed Success

The Warren County 4-H leaders' basketball game at the John Graham gym on Friday night, March 29, was a success, according to a 4-H spokesman. Sharon Jefferson and Steve Hymon sang the National Anthem prior to the game.

The Young and Restless team coached by Evontio Williams won over the young girls, coached by Nicole Tunstall. The men, who were coached by George Koonce, won over the young 4-H'ers, who were coached by Steve Hymon.

At halftime Break Dancers, under the direction of Aaron Johnson entertained the spectators. There was also a film of Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Camp.

### Bath Plants

Beautify the bath by adding plants. Choose those that adjust well to moisture and do not need lots of direct light.

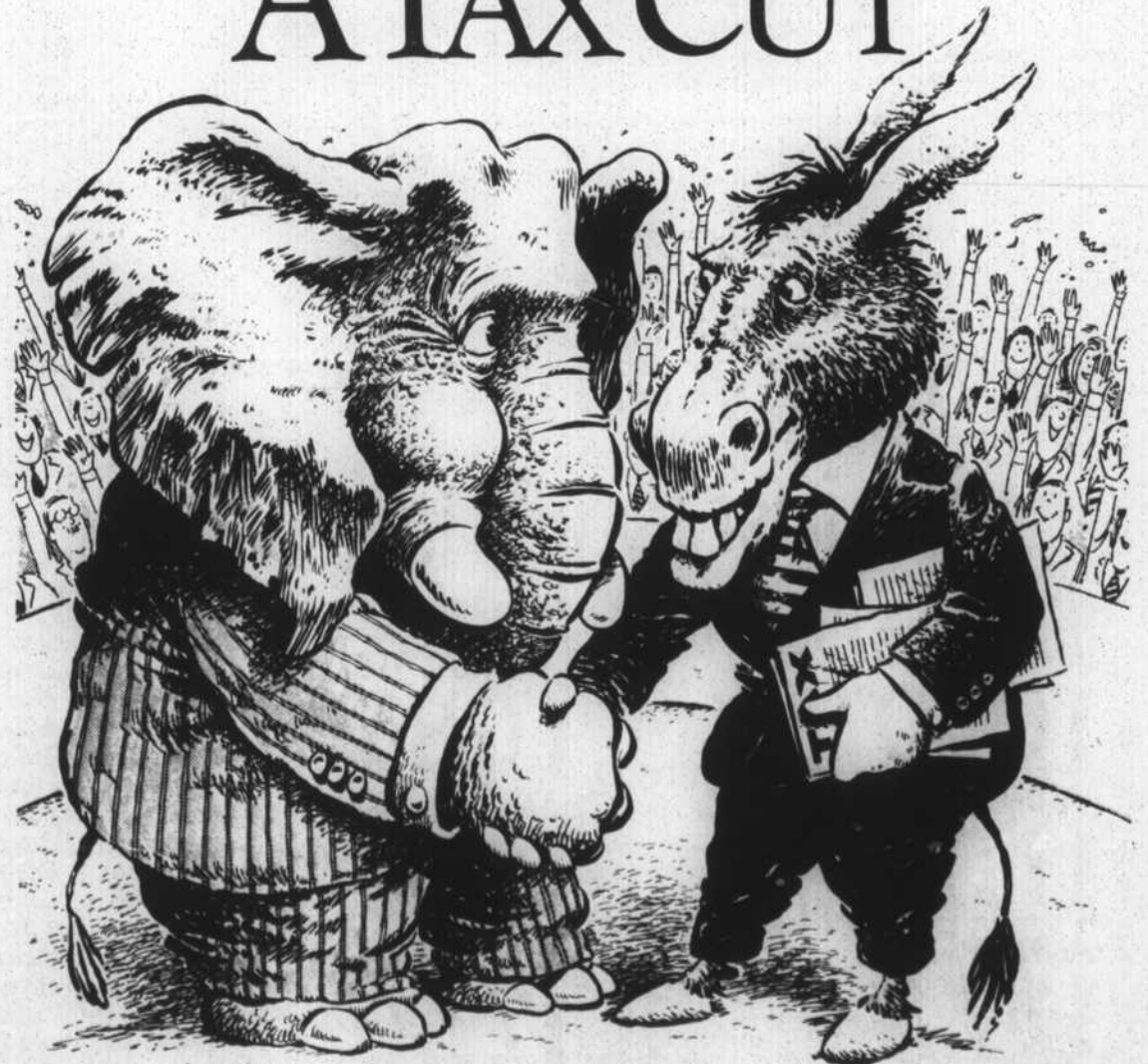
### CONSUMER CHECKLIST



### The Right Location

Buying a home or remodeling an old one? Make sure it's in the right place. The proper location is important. Ask yourself it it's convenient? Is the neighborhood good? Is it free from traffic, noise, odor? Is it in a flood area? Why put money into a home if it isn't in the right place.

# VOTE YOURSELF A TAX CUT



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