

Tobacco Growing Urged As Cash Crop For Farmers In Transylvania

Expert Gives Advice on Growing of the Big Money-Making Tobacco Plant — Many Farmers Testing It Out This Year.

By A. L. BROWN
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This message is to the farmers and tobacco raisers of Western North Carolina who have this year reaped the reward that is due them in the splendid prices they have received at this market for the tobacco they have raised. If I can say something here that will assist them in raising a high priced crop next year I will have been more than repaid.

But first I want to tell you something that ought to make you proud that you live in this great mountain section. I know you have heard of those great Kentucky blue grass farms where people used to think was the only place where good burley tobacco could be raised. In Kentucky farms are cheap at \$300 per acre, yet, did you know these mountains and valleys of ours that sell for from \$50 to \$100 per acre are producing right now burley tobacco that is bringing on our floors right now an average higher price than the burley grown on these far famed Kentucky farms? It means just this, you have in Western North Carolina a soil and climate unsurpassed for raising high priced smoking tobacco. You have learned by experience how to grow and handle it so that you richly deserve the compliment that was recently paid you by Chas. Penn, vice president of the American Tobacco company, who said that in his opinion that this was the best burley producing section in the United States, and that the kind of tobacco you raise cannot be over produced for many years.

So, at the beginning of another tobacco season I will offer a few suggestions taken from the exper-

ience of more than a thousand successful growers I have visited all over the tobacco section since last September and offer them to you for the coming crop.

I cannot do better right here at the beginning than to quote from a talk made over the radio some weeks ago by Johnnie Bernard, who you all know, for it is about seed beds, the beginning of all crops and one of the most important parts of the whole undertaking. Mr. Bernard said:

"The foundation of a good crop of burley tobacco is plenty of healthy plants. To obtain these you should burn your beds early and burn them deep in order to get all the weed seed and plants killed out. Make your beds in good rich soil and have twice as many plants as you think you will need for you may have a neighbor that will make a failure. Do not sow too thick, for it stunts the growth and your plants will be healthy. Mix half an ounce of seed with a quart to half gallon of special tobacco fertilizer and mix it thoroughly when you get ready to sow, this will give you a better distribution of the seed over your bed."

Selfish Plant
Tobacco you know is a selfish plant, you have to give it plenty of attention and humor its whims, but if you do this your crop is sure to produce for you a cash in hand yield.

When you are ready to set out your plants see that your ground is well worked and into each hill work a small amount of special tobacco fertilizer in order to start the little plant off in life with the best possible soil surroundings. If the land is thin you will possibly want to work additional fertilizer into the rows later on, but be careful in the use of nitrate of soda. To make quick growth and produce a strong stalk nothing is better than nitrate of soda if you use it with great care for here is no danger of burning your plants. When used in seed beds it is best to use it in proportions one tablespoon heaping full to a quart of water and sprinkle it on the beds. Nitrate is taken up very quickly into the plant thereby causing a quick growth.

Cultivation
Clean cultivation from first to last is another very important step in the production of a good tobacco crop, for the quality depends largely upon keeping your patch free from all other growth. You should use the utmost care in setting out your plants. We all know that the tendency is towards light smoking tobacco and that is what is bringing the best prices. In the ordinary crop you will get enough of the heavier leaves to supply the demand for chewing tobacco. There is still a very great shortage of light colored and weight smoking tobacco which will keep the price high for many years yet even if our acreage is doubled. These lighter grades depend much upon how you set your plants. If your land is strong and well fertilized plants should be set from 12 to 14 inches apart in the rows. Topping tobacco should be left to your own judgment and the condition of the soil and plant, but the best time seems to be when the plant is in bloom.

Early planting is urged upon all as one of the important things in the success of tobacco raising. Experience has shown that those who set plants early make the best showing

Tobacco Farmers In the State Are Among the Most Prosperous People—Would Lift Mortgages In This County.

at curing time. But you say, we must have a season. That is true and I am only advising this so that you will take every opportunity to plant early, for you will find it will be much easier to get a good stand before hot weather.

Barns Important
Barns and barn room is the next most important item in connection with tobacco raising and is often neglected until the last moment, which always tells in the wind up. If you do happen to have any spare time I believe the farmers should begin now getting your barns in shape for the coming season.

The best cured crops of course, come from the best built barns, but this does not mean that you must build new barns if you have none, provided you have out buildings that can be planked up so that the sun and wind cannot beat in on your sticks. You must have ventilation if you would keep your tobacco from barn scalding. If you are going to build a new barn from unseasoned logs or wet lumber it should be done as soon as possible in time for the sap or dampness to dry out before curing time. Damp wet barns are as bad as no barns.

Rotation of crops is another very important thing. We all know that it is bad for any land to put the same crop two years on the same land, and this is especially true of tobacco. No matter how well you care for your land or how rich it is, two years are long enough to keep it in tobacco; one is better if you have the land. Of course after you have skipped one year you can go back to the same ground provided you have let it rest by making a pasture

out of it. Take care of your land if you would help make this a great tobacco raising section, but do not try to increase your acreage beyond your ability to care for and properly cure the tobacco you raise.

Increased Acreage
Increased acreage is one of the main points of this message to you. Many farmers ask me if they should increase their acreage this year—would it not depress the price. There is not the least danger of this if you raise the same kind of good tobacco you raised this past season. The tobacco acreage in Kentucky has reached its limit. No one expects that this section will ever be able to increase its acreage to any extent, certainly it will not keep pace with the increased demands for smoking tobacco. Therefore our opportunity has arrived to double our production and therefore our income. If the Greenville market should sell 50,000,000 pounds of burley tobacco in a season it would not exceed the demand for this type. On our market we can tell North Carolina tobacco as far as we can see it. Soil, climate and knowing how to grow it has put this tobacco in the front rank, especially in this true of Madison and Buncombe counties, but from Yancey and Haywood counties have come some of the finest tobacco raised in the whole area, yet in these counties the acreage has been small. On our floors tobacco from Yancey county has averaged more than 40 cents, while Haywood has been a close second.

Getting to market is not what it used to be. Now you have a network of fine roads that will be ready for you long before the next crop, over which you can come quickly and get back home just as easy. Daily papers like The Citizen, of Asheville, comes to you each morning to bring you the news of the market and tell you the best time to sell. Greenville, the market in the South, is at your very door and is expected next year to have twenty of the keenest best buyers in the business today. So that the outlook was never better for the farmers of Western North Carolina, and we stand ready at any time to help you by suggestion or if necessary by personal visits to make this coming tobacco crop the best that has ever been raised.

FOR ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION



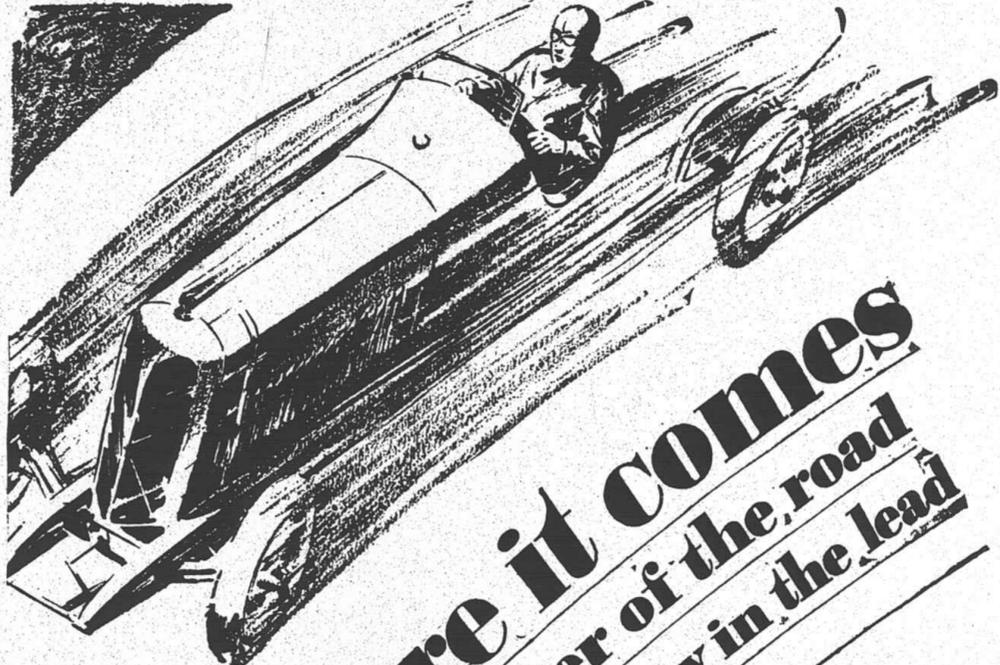
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