

Specialist Warns Against Blue Mold

Blue mold is again set to take a big toll from tobacco plant beds, warned plant disease specialist of State College again this week.

H. R. Garris of the Agricultural Extension Service advised growers in southern and southwestern North Carolina to begin blue mold treatments wherever plants are up, regardless of size.

A report from Georgia underscored the warning. It is said: "Eighty to ninety per cent of the plants have been killed in many Georgia beds."

Garris pointed out that there has always been a tendency for severe blue mold outbreaks to occur following abnormally warm Januarys. Blue mold was reported in Columbus County February 20.

A long-range weather forecast has predicted below normal temperature and heavy rainfall for eastern North Carolina during March. Garris says, "If this is accurate, conditions will be very favorable for the spread of blue mold."

Dusts or sprays containing zinc or ferbam are recommended for controlling blue mold. Zinc can be purchased under such trade names as Dithane Z-78 and Farnate. Ferbam is available under names as Farnate, Nuleaf and Ferradow.

Details of treatment can be obtained from county farm agents or by writing the Department of Publications, N. C. State College, Raleigh.

Get Degrees At Geo. Washington U.

Degrees were awarded to two residents of this area at the Winter Commencement of The George Washington University, Washington, D. C. on Feb. 22.

Percy Thornton, Jr., of Route 2, Faison, was awarded a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University's Law School.

Deems Norwood Wiggs, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Wiggs of Warsaw, received a Master of Science degree in Botany. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University.

South Crowns Camellia Queen

Bess Myerson, TV star and former Miss America, wears crown of camellias presented to her as America's Camellia Queen for 1952 by the Southern Gardens Association. The award was made in New York on her coast-to-coast NBC-TV "Big Pay-Off" fashion show before an estimated 15,000,000 viewers. The crown is made of blossoms from the most prized first camellia planted in America, the Reine des Fleurs in Middleton Gardens, Charleston, S. C. She holds a fabulous new camellia developed at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston, and named for her in honor of the occasion "Queen Bess." The presentation was made before a banked mass of camellias by Benjamin Kittredge, Jr., owner of Cypress Gardens, Charleston, and president of the association.

Wild Onion Milk Costs Dairymen

Dairymen lose thousands of dollars annually through failure to keep wild onion flavor out of milk, according to A. C. Kimrey, dairy specialist with the State College Extension Service.

To avoid losses through rejection of milk, Tar Heel dairymen are being urged to keep cows off wild onion infested pastures for at least six hours before milking.

The best way to overcome this trouble is to keep cows off the onions entirely. One good practice is to graze onion infested fields with dry cows and young cattle.

Most dairymen in Piedmont and eastern counties, however, will be forced to use such pastures. Where this is necessary, milking cows should be taken off the pasture at least six hours before milking, Kimrey explains. This gives the cow a chance to breathe off the flavor before milking. During the time the cows are off the onions, they should be given free access to hay and water.

You will also want to teach chicks to roost. Early instructions on this point will save you trouble later on.

March Agricultural Suggestions

To: Duplin Farm Leaders from the County Agent's Office.

1. Farmer Meetings — An announcement of a series of community meetings is enclosed. Please make a note of the time of the meeting in your community, then check this schedule of meetings up at filling stations or any other public place in your neighborhood. Anything you can do to announce these meetings and help get a good crowd out will be appreciated.

2. Recommended Hybrid Corn Varieties — The recommended corn hybrids for Duplin County for 1952 are as follows: Yellow Hybrid—N. C. 27, Dixie 18 and Dixie 23. White Hybrid—N. C. 28, N. C. 31, and Dixie 17.

3. Blue Mold—This tobacco plant disease was found in plant beds in Columbus County several days ago, two weeks earlier than it has ever been found in North Carolina. Don't let it slip up on you, get your sprayer or duster ready and start applying Dithane or Farnate when plants are the size of a dime or earlier. If Blue Mold appears in your community, follow recommendations on the package.

Control Of Insects In Tobacco Plant Beds—Midge Larva, crane fly larva, flea beetle, vegetable weevil and cut worms can be controlled with 1 pound of 5 per cent DDT dust per 100 square yards, or spray with 5 level tablespoons of 50 per cent DDT Wettable Powder in 4 gallons of water per 100 square yards.

Grub Worm And Aphid Control—Use 1 per cent Parathion dust at rate of 1 pound per 100 square yards, handle with caution.

Mole Cricket Control — Bait: Mix 5 pounds of wheat bran; 2 1-2 oz. 50 per cent Chlordane Powder; water to moisten. Rate: 1-2 pound bait per 100 square yards.

4. Fertilize Pastures: It is now time to fertilize permanent pastures. An annual application of 400 to 600 pounds of 0-9-27, or 0-10-20 should be applied on established pastures.

5. Tobacco Barn Construction—A tobacco barn construction demonstration will be held on J. B. Stroud's Farm about 4 miles south of Kenansville on March 28. Mr. R. N. Ritchie, Extension Agricultural Engineer from State College will build and install an Oxford type ventilation on top of a new barn. These ventilators can be put on old barns too, they save a lot of fuel in curing tobacco and are not expensive. Come to Mr. Stroud's Farm at 3:00 P. M. on March 23 and see this demonstration.

N. C. Farm Prices Down 9 Points

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets dropped 9 points during the month ended February 15. The February 15 index of 263 compares with an index of 314 a year ago and an index of 219 on February 15, 1950.

The grains commodity index increased from 189 to 201. The milk-cattle commodity index increased from 283 to 285, while the dairy products index at 247 was unchanged from a month earlier. The poultry commodity index dropped from 265 to 223 due to a decrease of 12 cents per dozen in egg prices.

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GARDEN TIME

ROBERT SCHMIDT
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Each warm day this month will create that irresistible urge to get out into the garden to dig and plant. The time is at hand when most of the cool season vegetables should be in the ground if they are to get their growth before the hot weather checks them. In this group are cabbage, onions, mustard, kale, turnips, lettuce, spinach, garden peas, kohlrabi, beets, carrots, asparagus, and Irish potatoes. Cauliflower and broccoli are cool season crops also but are susceptible to damage from heavy frosts and should not be planted as early as cabbage.

Onions may be started from seeds, sets, or green plants. For early green onions it is best to use sets or plants. Most of the onion plants for sale by seed stores are of the Spanish or Bermuda types. These are sweet onions but poor keepers after harvest. Dry sets are usually of the pungent domestic varieties and are commonly used for producing early green onions or mature onions for storage purposes. In buying onion sets for the production of mature dry onions do not select large sets but rather the small to medium size. Sets that are over three-fourths of an inch in diameter will usually send up flower or seed stalks and will make a poor quality bulb. White sets are considered better for green onions because of the color, but yellow onions are better keepers as mature bulbs. For successful storage onions must be kept cool and dry.

In buying cabbage or lettuce plants for setting this month select plants that have not been over-hardened or that are not too large. Plants of this kind are apt to form flower stalks prematurely instead of forming a good quality head. Hotbed or coldframe grown plants that have been protected from the most severe freezes are usually much better plants than those grown in unprotected field beds.

Good quality plants as well as seeds are necessary if you are to get a high quality product.

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