

TUNE IN



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MONDAY

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Prospects For Crops Yield Reported Good

Raleigh, August 26.—North Carolina crops made normal progress during the past week, but in scattered sections dry weather hampered crop growth and proper development, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service of the State Department of Agriculture reported.

Tobacco priming was reported progressing rapidly, with over half of the tobacco harvested in the coastal counties and a smaller percentage in the Old and Middle belts. Tobacco has been ripening very fast. Early planted corn is matured in all sections, and harvesting will begin in September.

The cotton crop, like tobacco stands, was reported "fair" to "good", with official counts indicating that boll weevils are doing considerable damage. Weevil infestation is particularly heavy in the southern coastal counties and in the lower Piedmont areas.

Prospects indicate a "very good" peanut crop in the northern coastal counties, although much depends on weather from now until harvesting starts. Foliage is very good, and "pegging down" is progressing satisfactorily.

A good crop of sweet potatoes should be produced "if nothing happens", the report stated. Marketing has begun, and quality is good in some sections.

With State prospects indicating an extra good corn crop, particularly in the eastern section, insufficient moisture in local areas is making poor prospects in some of the Piedmont counties.

Reports indicated that crops were cultivated very well this season and that, for the most part, the cultivation process has been finished for this year. Farm labor remains scarce and expensive in practically all areas, but some crop reporters indicated the situation was improving.

Coltrane Discusses Fertilizer Outlook

Raleigh, August 26.—Since Fertilizer plays such an important part in crop production in North Carolina, our farmers are interested in knowing what the outlook for supplies will be this fall and next spring.

From a national standpoint, the outlook is not much different from that of the past year (1946-47). It is estimated there will be a five to 10 per cent increase in nitrogen, eight to 10 per cent increase in phosphate, and two to four per cent increase in potash supplies—an overall increase of seven to 10 per cent.

W. A. Minor, assistant Secretary of Agriculture, estimates that we will have something over 3,440,000 tons of plant food, as compared with something over 3,000,000 tons this past year.

The clear point in the outlook is that we don't have enough fertilizer, and it does not look as if we will have enough in the next 12 months. Every year we have a little more nitrogen, a little more phosphate and a little more potash; and every year we seem to have a bigger gap between supply and demand. At least, the gap stays just as big.

From the standpoint of the North Carolina farmer, it appears at this time that tobacco farmers will get all the 3-9-6 they want. Those who used 3-9-9 this past year should get a similar tonnage. Tobacco farmers should get as much, if not more, top-dresser 5-5-20 as during the past year.

Farmers should get this fall and next spring ample quantities of 3-12-6; 4-10-6; 5-10-5; 4-12-4. High potash grades such as 2-12-12 and 3-9-12 and 0-12-12 will be short of demand. Those farmers who used these grades during the past year should get a similar tonnage in the ensuing year.

Nitrogen Top-Dressers
Solid nitrogen top-dressing materials for example, nitrate of

soda, cal-nitrate and ammonium nitrate—will be short of demand, but should be equal to last year's supply. If necessary, the grade 8-12-0 could again be placed on the grade list should it be available in ample quantities. The farmer would have to determine whether this grade is economical.

The outlook for nitrogen top-dressing material is too uncertain to justify an optimistic statement at this time. There is such an acute world shortage of nitrogen that we can't tell what the International Emergency Food Board may do. However, we can expect as much as last year, and maybe more.

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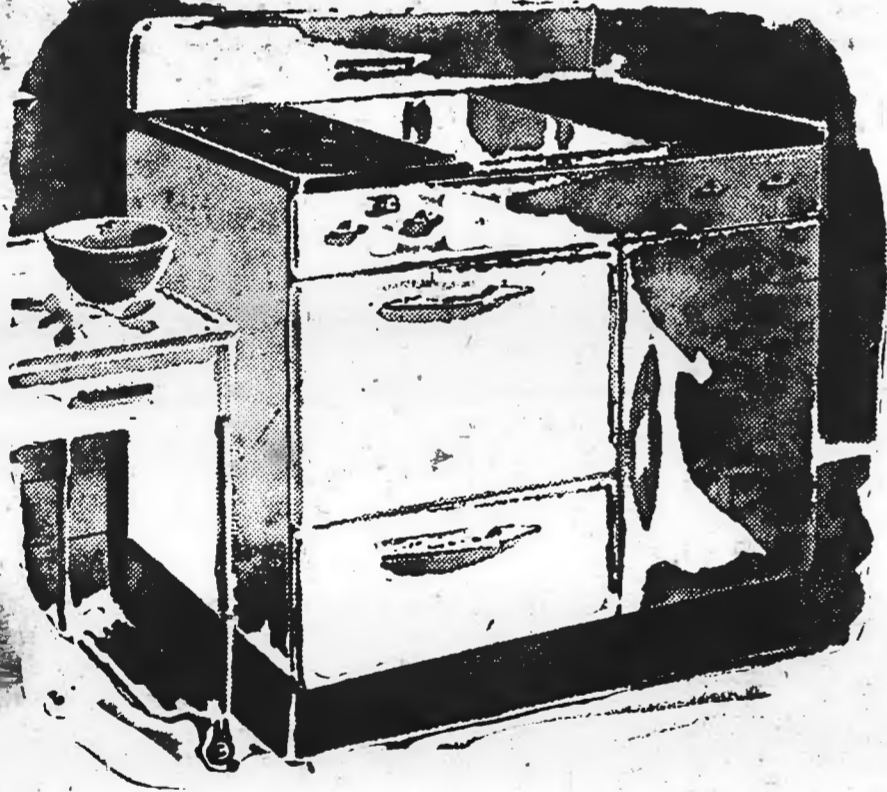
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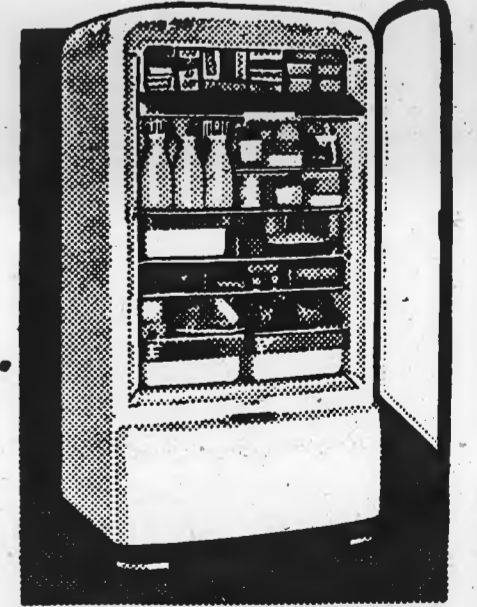
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