

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

QUESTION: Do you recommend using sawdust as a mulch for shrubs?

ANSWER: John Harris, the "Tar Heel Gardener," says sawdust makes a very good mulch for newly set, deep-rooted shrubs. Use it one or two inches deep. It not only conserves moisture but will help keep down many grasses and weeds. If mixed with the soil sawdust will loosen tight soils and thus make them work better, and will help all soils hold more moisture. Sawdust, or other loose organic matter, when worked deep into the soil, will cause more plants to develop a better and deeper root system than those growing on ordinary soil.

When sawdust is mixed with the soil, it is recommended that extra nitrogen be added to assist in decomposing. Oiled sawdust is preferable to new because it will decompose more rapidly. As a general guide, use one-fourth pound of nitrate of soda, in addition to the regular fertilizer application, for each bushel of sawdust worked into the soil. This application may have to be repeated for several years until the sawdust is thoroughly rotted.

QUESTION: Have support prices been announced for the 1949 sweet potato crop?

ANSWER: Yes. For U. S. No. 1 grade potatoes, washed and packed in new containers, the schedule of support prices is as follows: Puerto Rican and Nancy Hall, \$1.50 per bushel from September 1 to November 15, and \$2 per bushel after November 15; Golden and Jersey, \$1.30 until November 15 and \$1.50 after that date; other varieties, \$1 until November 15 and \$1.50 after that date. These prices, based on 80 per cent of parity, are for cars or trucks in carlots or truck loads and are for sweet potatoes packed in standard crates, bushel hampers, and solid or built-up bottom bushel baskets according to the type of containers customarily used in each area.

Cool, damp weather in recent weeks has been very favorable for the development of boll weevils in North Carolina.

Cost Of Accidents Runs Into Millions

More than 36 million dollars in medical, dental, and hospital bills were paid by farm people during 1948 as a result of accidents, according to H. M. Ellis, in charge of agricultural engineering for the State College Extension Service.

This cost, Ellis states, does not include the cost of accidents to those who were killed, or who suffered permanent total disabilities; or costs other than those resulting directly from the care of injuries.

Among the chief causes of the accidents Ellis listed the following: Falls, machines, animals, auto and truck collisions, handling objects, hand tools, stepping on or striking against objects, falling and flying objects, and burns or shocks.

These findings are based on an analysis of nearly 2,000 accidents reported in three enumerative surveys made by the BAE in 1947 and 1948.

Seventy-two percent of all accidents to farm people occurred on the farm—16 percent in the farm home and 56 percent elsewhere on the farm. Eleven percent occurred on roads or streets off the farm. The other 17 percent included industrial accidents suffered by farm people who were working in factories and accidents of children in games at school.

Fifty-four percent of injuries were sustained while the victim was engaged in farm work. Farm accidents reached a peak in September, when both farm work accidents and recreational accidents were sharply up. Males had an accident rate over three times as great as females, and males in the age group 25 to 44 years had the highest rate.

Ellis advises all farmers to check their homes, farm buildings and surroundings and remove all hazards possible. He also suggests "taking time instead of chances."

Plentiful Foods Listed For August

Locally grown fruits and vegetables—especially tomatoes and early apples—will be plentiful on southern markets in August, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported this week.

Shoppers will find a greater variety of fresh vegetables in August than in any other summer month, Miss Josephine Hall, home demonstration agent for the State College Extension Service, explains, and quality should be at the season's peak. Tomatoes will be on the market from commercial growing areas as well as from nearby farms and market gardens. Early apples will be marketed from Carolina and Virginia, and in addition Miss Hall said August is also the peak month for harvesting California Gravensteins. The Gravenstein is the only California apple found generally throughout eastern markets.

Other fruits listed as plentiful for August are peaches, pears, fresh plums, prunes and cantaloupes. Although the peach crop is small this year in some of the southeastern states, other areas have good crops which will be ripe this month.

Cabbage, lettuce, and onions will be the most plentiful fresh vegetables, and in the protein classification, shoppers will have a wide selection, with broilers, fryers, stewing hens, eggs, fresh and frozen fish, peanut butter, and dairy products all on the August plentiful list. The dairy products include cheese, evaporated milk, butter, nonfat dry milk solids, and cottage cheese. Supplies of these products are heavy and prices are considerably below levels of a year ago, Miss Hall stated.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

State College Hints To Farm Homemakers

For variety in sweetings plus flavors from the flower world, try honey, say food specialists.

Ways to use honey to advantage in summer meals include the following suggested by the food specialist:

Use honey to sweeten cool fruit drinks. Honey also makes a likeable sweetening for iced tea and coffee.

Serve honey fruit cup as a first course or dessert. If fruits in the cup are mild and sweet, mix lemon juice with honey, add to the fruit and then chill before serving. If the fruit includes a tart kind, such as grapefruit, add honey alone.

Use honey with fruit salads—ambrosia fruit salad, for example: Peel and slice oranges and dip the slices in honey, then in shredded coconut. Place the slices on lettuce and top with berries or cherries.

For a quick salad dressing to go over fruit combinations, mix equal parts of honey and lemon juice. Add celery seed, if desired.

When baking apples, add honey and table fat to each cored apple. Baste with honey during baking.

To protect mattresses, purchase or make mattress covers. These covers should preferably cover the entire mattress although many use the type that covers just the top side. Covers are made of cotton cretonne, plastic coated cotton, quilted cottons and plastics. A cover will protect your mattress from dust, soil and tearing. It can easily be removed for washing. Mattress pads also keep your mattress in better condition. Frequent turning of your mattresses from side and end to end give even wear.

Floyd Mays of Route 1 Taylorsville, was the first North Carolina Turkish tobacco grower to begin harvest of his 1948 crop. Mays made his first priming on June 28.

The rate of increase in the aged population, on North Carolina farms from 1930 to 1940 was nearly six times the rate of increase for the total farm population.

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Greens Become An Important Cash Crop

New York, July 26—Two old-time Southern menu favorites—turnip and mustard greens—are winning popularity as a year-round table delicacy and are becoming an increasingly important crop for growers and packers of greens.

Tender young leaves of the mustard and turnip plants, cooked in water with salt pork and pepper pods, have long been traditional Southern favorites but have not been widely known in other sections of the country.

However, crop and canning figures now show that these greens are becoming increasingly available in all seasons, and nutrition experts point out that the products offer an interesting taste variant and afford much the same healthful benefits as other leafy vegetables.

Can industry figures show that more than 1,500,000 cases of mustard, turnip and other greens were put up in 1948.

Interest in the cotton classing program is greater in North Carolina this year than ever before. Many Tar Heel farmers could materially supplement their cash farm income and earn wages for work on their farms if they would systematically work a small area of woodlands each year and harvest the products that have matured or are in need of cutting, believes John E. Ford, forestry extension specialist at

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