

FARM ITEMS

By W. C. Williford
County Farm Agent

Bermuda grass, commonly known as joint grass, wire grass, or by several other names, is a major pest in Hoke County; however several farmers are increasing the amount of Bermuda grass. This new strain of Bermuda, known as Coastal or Tifton, is even more vigorous than the common Bermuda grass that you know. The Coastal Bermuda is a very good grazing crop especially for sandy lands and dry weather. Bermuda grass, in many instances, is the only grass that will grow in a hilly grazing under severe conditions, and for this reason it can be expected to be a pest when the time comes for eradication.

There are ways to control Bermuda grass that are efficient enough to warrant the use of Bermuda rather freely. Control of Bermuda grass can be effective by use of chemicals along with good cultural practices. The best chemical to use is Sodium Trichloroacetate, commonly sold as TCA. Apply 60 - 100 lbs. of TCA and equivalent in 40-50 gallons of water per acre. This should be done in the early part of the growing season for two reasons. The first reason is that the chemical will kill the young tender grass faster than it will the old grass. Another reason is that a lot of food value in the roots will have gone in the new growth and will not have had time to build up again. Probably the best plan is when you've noticed your Bermuda grass is beginning to grow well, disk it as thoroughly as you can and then spray the chemical on the top of the ground. This will leave your soil sterile for about 60 days. As soon as you notice that the grass looks like it's dying, practice shallow cultivation and let the sun finish killing it until you can get some crops planted on the soil. To be on the safe side, it's best not to plant any crop on soil treated with TCA for 90 days.

You will note that this is a control measure and not an eradication, which is practically an impossibility. In order to eradicate it, you will have to treat all your neighbor's farms and not feed any hay to your livestock unless you know it is grown on Bermuda free soil. There are also several other preventative measures you will have to practice to eliminate wire grass on your farm, and there is no easy or inexpensive way to control it.

Nut grass is also a pest that I have had many inquiries about. This, also, is a pest that can make cultivation almost impossible. Nut grass is not a grass but a sedge and reacts very similarly

to your broadleaf plants when treated with chemicals. Therefore, it can not be treated in fields that are near tobacco, cotton, vegetable crops, watermelons, cantaloupes, etc. The same chemical that kills broadleaf weeds is the one that you use on nutgrass. Nutgrass stores in the ground large amounts of food in its huge roots with nut-like structures on them. When you cut the above ground vegetation off the nut grass, there is enough food value left in the nuts to produce some more above ground vegetation within a day or two. You will notice that the very first sprigs of nutgrass that you see are unusually green in color. The nutrients that give it this green color are the digestive materials of the plant, and they give it the ability to produce more food to be stored in the nuts. The plants start storing more food almost immediately when the new sprigs emerge from the ground and it is almost impossible to control it by cultural practices. There are several chemicals being tested that show promise for the control of nutgrass, but the best one today is 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, sold as 2,4-D. This should be used at the rate of 1 lb. per acre as a spray. It makes no difference how much water you use to put this amount of 2,4-D on your soil, but you should use spray equipment and nozzles that manufacturers especially recommend for the use of 2,4-D. This treatment must be repeated at two to three week intervals until the nut grass is under control. If your nut grass has a large growth it is best to plow or disk the land and treat the new shoots when they are young and growing. First, because you don't want high pressure sprayers that will create a mist that will drift from field to field. There will be enough evaporation from the chemical to make the use of it dangerous to your broadleaf crops, even at the best. Second, it is practically impossible to clean 2,4-D from your spray equipment. If you ever use a piece of spray equipment for 2,4-D spray, use it only for 2,4-D spray or follow the manufacturer's recommendations 100% for cleaning the equipment before you use it for any other spraying purpose.

both have been used in this area. In the case of the Farm Item, a detailed account of the control program, all are available by the same means. It is time to start your own fight with your plants down.

If you are in the feeding business, especially in the cattle or dairying, you should have a plan

On April 17th, at the Carolina Tobacco Warehouse in Clinton, beginning at 1:00 P. M., there will be a sale for 4-H and FFA members of twenty top grade Jersey heifers.

These calves have been selected by the State College Dairy Department and will be sold at a non-profit basis to boys that are interested in getting first class heifers for show purposes or milk production.

Anthracnose and blue mold

County Endorses Voluntary Safety Inspection Plan



Gov. Unstead has given his personal endorsement to the voluntary safety inspection plan for automobiles sponsored by the Carolina League. The free inspection will begin this spring. A

handing his signed endorsement to Thomas A. Williams of Greensboro, chairman of the League. On the left of the picture are Mrs. Beadie Bellentine of Raleigh and McAlister Carson, Jr., of Charlotte, secretary-treasurer and vice-chairman of the League, re-

spectively. On the right of the picture is State Motor Vehicle Commissioner Ed Scheidt, a director of the League, who calls the movement "one of the finest things that has happened since I took office."

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your next winter's feeding. Silage is one of the cheapest sources of winter feed. It's time to dig your silo and plan for the crop that you plan to put in it.

There were several good farmers in the office this morning discussing the corn bill bug. Their opinion of the situation is that it is impossible to control bill bugs in corn that is planted behind corn, but rotation is almost 100% control. If necessary, rotation can

be supplemented with poison treatments to give better control.

The bulletin featured this week in the County Agent's office is the new bulletin by the Extension Horticulture Department on Pests of Flowers.

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most feed increased five to 20 cents per hundred during the month ended February 15, 1954.

It is estimated that North Carolina turkey raisers will grow 5 per cent fewer birds this year than in 1953.


Average prices received by North Carolina farmers for most commodities they sell increased slightly during the month ended January 15, 1954.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE



Come Save on Scores of Spring's Good Things in - A&P's

SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL



Green Giant Brand 2 No. 303 cans GREEN PEAS	37c
Sunnyfield Long Grain RICE, 3-lb pkg	43c
Flotill Brand - Freestone ELBERTA PEACHES	50c
For Cooking & Baking - White House Homogenized EVAPORATED MILK, 3 tall cans	37c
Dewco Brand SHOE PEG CORN	35c
Your Choice - Veg. Style - Boston Style - or With Pork ANN PAGE MEANS, 16-oz can	10c
Jane Parker Tasty FINEAPPLE PIE, 8-inch pie	39c
Ann Page Top Quality SALAD DRESSING, qt jar	49c

Prices in this ad - effective thru Sat. March 20th

Why value-wise buyers are swinging to Ford!



They are finding that Ford brings them everything they might want to meet modern tastes and requirements

You can't buy better! It's the stunning Customline Fordor Sedan.

Ford's the only low-priced car with all these "Worth More" features

Recognized leadership in styling

You can pay more but you'll never find a car that's more "at home" wherever you may drive it. For the smart new '54 Ford is as modern as tomorrow with the crisp, commanding lines of today's style leader. And it's just as smart inside! The sparkling new decorator-designed interiors have colorful new upholstery fabrics and harmonizing trim that spell quality wherever you look.

Choice of most modern engines

Ford and Ford alone, in the low-price field, offers you a choice of V-8 or Six... the brilliant new 130-h.p. Y-block V-8 or the flashing new 115-h.p. I-block Six. Both Ford engines have rigid, extra-deep blocks for smoothest, quietest operation and extra-long life... plus the

savings and "GO" of modern, high-compression, short-stroke, low-friction design.

Ball-Joint Front Suspension

For the first time in any low-priced car, you get the smoother riding and easier handling of Ball-Joint Front Suspension - an advance you'd expect to find only in the costliest cars.

Choice of 5 power assists... including Fordomatic

Only Ford in the low-price field offers power on all four windows... a 4-way power seat which adjusts up and down as well as forward and back. Power steering, power brakes and versatile Fordomatic Drive are also available - and they make your fine Ford even more fun to drive.

Choice of 28 new models

With fourteen stunning body styles available with either of Ford's new engines, Ford offers a car to suit every taste and need. In fact, for '54, Ford offers the widest selection of models in the entire industry!

Top value at resale

Used car prices show that in recent years Ford has consistently returned a higher proportion of its original cost at resale than any other car. And for 1954, with all its advanced new features, Ford is worth even more when you buy it... and it stands to reason it should be worth more when you sell it, too.

We cordially invite you to Test Drive the 1954

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You'll really save money when you buy a pair of these Pennsylvania Keystone Tires. If you need 6.00 x 16 tires, pay our regular low price of \$14.60 for the first tire... buy its mate for only \$8.88. If your car demands 6.70 x 15 tires, the first tire costs you only \$16.55 and you buy its mate for only \$9.99. Liberal road hazard guarantee included.

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