High Quality Leaf Production **Key to Future**

Raleigh.-Problems of pathology, entomology, engineering, management, marketing, and the like must be considered not only on general farm crops but in connection with the home and the welfare of the farm family.

Tobacco is North Carolina's most important crop. Problems of plant production involve control of weeds, insects and diseases, as well as fertilization and other factors. Plans were worked out in 1945 that call for permanent plant bed sites.

Granville wilt and the black root rot disease have caused untold damage in the field to the tobacco crop in the past. Identification of the diseases, in the growing crop is absolutely necessary because no one strain has yet been developed that is resistant to all diseases.

After testing 1,034 different strains of tobacco, many from foreign countries, the Tobacco Branch Experiment Station at Oxford finally developed the Oxford 26 strain, which is resistant to Granville wilt. Extension aided growers in determining which fields should be planted to the new strain and in obtaining seed. About 50,000 acres were planted to the Oxford 26 tobacco and conservative estimates place the worth of the new strain at \$5,000,000 in a single year.

Growers with black shank infested soils continued to use Oxford strains 1, 2 and 3. The disease was reported for the first time in Wayne, Beaufort, and Onslow counties. Root knot nematodes have been responsible for serious damage in the Coastal Plain area, and the disease is on the increase in the lighter soils of the Piedmont section. Proper rotation is the best method of fighting this problem.

Agronomy and marketing specialists have warned growers that they must pay more attention to the production of high W. Griswold, with headquarters quality tobacco in the future as in Atlanta,

total supplies of the crop become Peanut Growers larger and world competition in production becomes tobacco keener.

Costs of producing cotton have risen to an exceptionally high point because so much of the work in connection with the crop is hand labor. Farm management, engineering, and agronomy are together working on plans for reducing unit costs of production as outlined in the seven-point cotton program.

Cotton presents not a state or regional problem, but a world economic problem. Its future may also present a serious social problem of displaced workers North Carolina and the South, if the crop acreage is seriously reduced because of increased world production. Reduction of cotton costs with production of better grade staple and new uses for the staple seem to present the best answers to the problem.

The one-variety cotton improvement program is now entering its sixth year with 39 organizations and 25,637 members cooperating. In 1945 302,301 acres of a single strain of cotton. a part of the seed wilt resistant and others non-wilt depending on the soils, were planted by these organizations. Each year a special trophy is awarded the county showing the greatest improvement in all improved practices relating to cotton.

A state-wide, five-acre cotton contest, emphasizing the importance of high production and high staple quality, was begun in 1945 in cooperation with all agencies interested in the future of cotton. In spite of the low average yield of cotton in the state, the prize winner produced more than 14 bales on 5 acres at a remarkably low cost of 8 cents per pound.

The Seventh Army now occupying the Third Army Area. including the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee was reactivated on June 11, 1946, under the command of Lieut. General Oscar

Need Better Seed

There is need for a national peanut seed industry says James H. Beattie of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Beattie, who is senior horticulturist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, states the case in this

"Due in some measure to the stimulus of war conditions, the annual farm value of the peanut crop in a dozen Southern States now exceeds \$200,000,000 and it is credited with being the third most valuable southern cash crop. Yet, surprisingly, there is no organized, large-scale peanut seed industry. Although more than 100 million pounds of peanut seed valued at several million dollars are required for planting each year, the peanut industry is a half century behind many other important crops in this respect.

"Every wholesale and retail catalogue devoted to vegetable seed gives attention to garden and field bean seed, but the peanut gets scant attention. In quantities used - approximately 80 million pounds of garden bean seed and 100 million pounds of field bean seed-beans rank with peanuts.

Carefully conducted experiments in Georgia, Virginia, and elsewhere, have shown increases of 250 to 300 pounds of peanuts per acre through the use of good seed. It is high time that farmers and the industry in general enjoy the profits to be had from the use of good seed. A well-organized, well-conducted seed industry is needed to supply it."

At noon on May 6, 1945, ene-

As the battle of the Bulge my resistance to the Seventh came to a close, the Germans Army ceased. Field Marshal launched a major offensive to Gerd von Rundstedt and King recover Alsace and it was ele-Leopold of the Belgians were ments of the Seventh Army that picked up in the Seventh Army stopped the thrust after a confused four-day battle.



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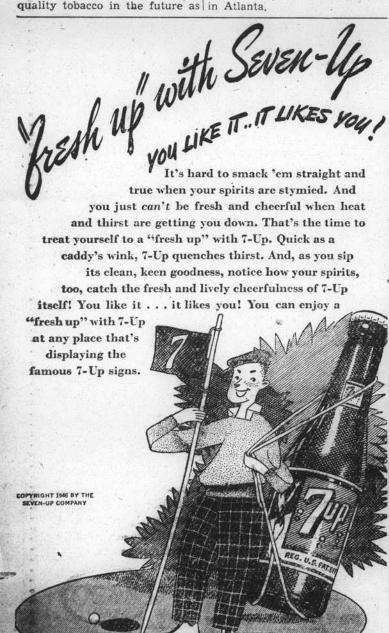
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