

## New Treatment Controls Sweet Potato Soft Rot

By R. M. WILLIAMS  
County Agricultural Agent

Sweet potato producers in eastern North Carolina counties will probably be interested to know that our research workers have found a new treatment that will effectively control soft rot disease of sweet potatoes.

The soft rot problem is more pronounced at the time or soon after the potatoes are washed, graded and packed for shipment into commercial trade.

The treatment that has been found to control the soft rot disease is known as sodium o-phenylpenate. For use of a shorter term, it is referred to as Sopp.

The Food and Drug Administration authorizes the use of Sopp on sweet potatoes and sets a maximum tolerance for the residue of this chemical at 15 parts per million.

Harold J. Kushman, physiologist, agricultural marketing service, US Department of Agriculture, working in the Department of Horticulture at North Carolina State college in Raleigh, has been running tests on this treatment to control rot of sweet potatoes for the past two years.

This material may be used at the rate of 1/2 percent on non-cured potatoes and one percent concentration on cured potatoes. The potatoes are dipped in this solution or it may be sprayed on the potatoes.

Afterwards the potatoes are given a brief water rinse with a single row of nozzles across the grader. This reduces the danger of discoloration and any effect the residue may have left on the potatoes. This treatment is applied after the potatoes have been washed and sorted, but before packing and shipping.

For many years our potato shippers and retailers have had trouble of sweet potatoes rotting in transit or in the market places. Most of this is caused by soft and black rot that develops on the potato after washing, grading, and packing for shipment to market. Most of these losses can be prevented by the proper application of this treatment during the grading and packing of the sweet potatoes.

This research work by Mr. Kushman is a great contribution to the sweet potato industry and will result in the saving of many thousands of dollars annually.

I would like to again remind all timber land owners of the fact that there is still an ample supply of pine tree seedlings in our state nurseries. There are approximately 30 2/3 million loblolly seedlings still available and nearly 7 million slash pine seedlings.

The longleaf supply is running a little on the short side with approximately 2/3 of a million seedlings yet to be moved. There is a supply of Arizona cypress and Scotch pine seedlings that are adaptable and recommended for Christmas tree plantings.

Due to the fact that red cedar trees have a disease known as twig blight that causes them to turn brown during this season of the year when they should be looking their prettiest, we are not recommending them as Christmas tree projects.

We would like very much to see some of the 4-H club members, FFA members or adult farmers try some of the Arizona Cypress

### Foreign Auto Removed, Man Loses Parking Slot

Madison, Wis. (AP)—Dr. Joseph Green of Madison told police someone picked up his parked small foreign car and deposited it on a lawn near a curb on Madison's west side.

Police said they get lots of complaints in this category. "But I lost my parking place," Green griped.

and Scotch pine as a Christmas tree project.

Anyone who might be interested in purchasing seedlings or setting any of the pine seedlings such as longleaf, loblolly, or slash pine should contact our office and make application for these seedlings at a very early date.

The 24th annual nurserymen's short course will be held on North Carolina State college campus Jan. 1-3. All nurserymen and those interested in nursery work are invited.

A program of the entire three days, which is available at our office, looks very interesting and I am sure will be educational.

The Georgia experiment station is now ready to release a new Rabbit-eye type blueberry that is referred to as the T-1. This new variety is supposed to be the earliest being planted at the present time.

It is a large berry measuring 1/2 to 3/4 inches in diameter, with a light blue color. A limited number of plants may be available this year.

### Holiday Stories, Customs Topic of Club's Program

Christmas stories and customs were the topic of the Newport Home Demonstration club's program Thursday night at the home of Mrs. John Reynolds.

Miss Nina Garner told the story of The Littlest Angel and each member told memories she had of Christmas as a child. Mrs. Claire Gagnon, a native of the British West Indies, told of Christmas customs there.

Mrs. Victor Marmino conducted a brief business session. The home was decorated in the holiday motif. The table was covered with a white linen cloth and was centered with a Christmas arrangement.

The hostess served jello Christmas trees and cake. Thirteen members and one guest, Mrs. Dick Simmons, were present.

### Variety of Cars

Elkhart Lake, Wis. (AP)—Seventeen different classes of sports cars have competed at Road America since the course was constructed in 1955. Only woman ever to win the race is Denise McCluggage who drove an Osca to victory in an 80-mile race last September.



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## GREETINGS

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