

Walnut Nuts Available For Planting By Forest Service

Stratified black walnut nuts for planting will be available for the first time by the North Carolina Division of Forestry this spring to interested landowners. For landowners with even a small amount of rich, moist but well-drained land, this may prove quite profitable.

According to the American Walnut Manufacturers' Association, prices for walnut sawlogs vary from \$100 to \$200 per thousand board feet, while veneer quality sawlogs may reach \$360 to \$400 per thousand. With price incentives such as these, landowners can well afford to give the intensive treatments including pruning as the trees get older, to produce high quality walnut logs. Researchers are even experimenting with irrigating walnut plantations. By planting walnuts in rows 20 feet apart and 14 feet between trees in the row, ample space is provided for navigating farm machinery. Soy beans or other plants for wildlife may be grown between the trees.

A terrific shortage of good quality walnut exists in this country. This is partially due to the heavy domestic demand for this beautiful wood, especially over the past ten years, but it is also due to the fact that large quantities of walnut are being exported. During 1964 alone, under former Secretary of Commerce Hodges' export quota program, 11,088,000 board feet were shipped out of the United States. However, during the first ten months of 1965, 18,100,000 board feet were exported.

The wood of walnut is highly prized for use in furniture and plywood panels. It is historically famous for use as gunstocks, and the

nut from the walnut is enjoyed as food by both man and wildlife.

The stratified nuts will be available February 1 at the North Carolina Division of Forestry's Clayton nursery. They will be packed in plastic bags, 25 to the package, and postpaid anywhere in North Carolina at 75c per package of 25. Interested landowners should order at once by letter from the State Forester's Office, Raleigh, submitting check or money order with the letter.

Encouragement for the walnut planting program within the state has been received from the American Walnut Manufacturers' Association, who furnished part of the nuts for distribution, and the Hardwood Research Council, who have agreed to match any interested landowner nut-for-nut up to a limit of 5,000 free nuts to any individual. Landowners should specify in their letter to the State Forester that they wish to avail themselves of this offer. The Council continues to sponsor a similar program with yellow-poplar seedlings which was started ten years ago.

Walnuts must have a good growing site — rich, moist, well-drained, for they will not grow well on the poorer, drier sites. Also, in order to obtain maximum growth, it is important that all competition from grass, weeds and trees be eliminated for the first few years and fertilizers be applied. This may be accomplished by clean cultivating the soil and fertilizing as for 100 bushels of corn per acre. Researchers at the Central States Forest Experiment Station obtained 2 to 4 feet of height growth per year for the three years they have used these practices.

Veteran's Officer To Be Here

The N. C. Veterans Commission will have Jack C. Winchester, District Officer in the Courthouse with the County Service Officer at Burnsville, N. C. on Thursday, February 24, 1966 from 11:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. and with the County Service Officer at Fakersville, N. C. in the Courthouse from 8:30 a. m. to 2:30 p. m. on Friday, February 25, 1966 to assist with veterans and their dependents.

Mr. Winchester stated, children of veterans who believe to qualify for educational benefits or N. C. College scholarships should apply for these benefits during the early part of their senior year in high school. The children who may have completed high school or will graduate next spring should file now.

F.H.A. Meets Needs Of Many Farm Families

Credit to meet rising farm operating costs combined with assistance in farm and financial management is helping overcome a serious threat to the continued existence of many family farms in Yancey County, W. Ralph Sechler, County Supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration, said today.

The agency makes loans under the operating loan program to purchase such capital items as machinery, livestock, and equipment, develop crop and pastures, or refinance debts incurred for these items, Mr. Sechler reported.

Other purposes includes purchase of feed and seed, financing essential farm and household operating expenses, development of farm woodlands and income-producing recreation enterprises on farms.

"The operating loan program of Farmers Home Administration now is being administered with the specific aim of meeting three critical problems facing family farmers in North Carolina" he reported.

The problems are "(1) Narrowing margins between what a farmer must pay out in production and living costs and what he is able to take in for his crops and livestock.

"(2) A continuing increase in the total indebtedness of farmers. Many farm operations concentrating on farm and

financial management as the key to successful operation," Mr. Sechler commented.

FHA has local offices serving every farming county in North Carolina, and for Yancey County the office is located in Burnsville.

Farm operating loans are available only to farmers unable to obtain credit from conventional lenders. Interest rate is 5 percent and repayment is scheduled for a period up to 7 years. Farmers now are indebted to several lenders. These debts present serious problems to operators of small units.

"(3) The difficulties facing qualified young farmers who need large amounts of capital to take over the operations of retiring farmers. "FHA's unique combination of operating credit combined with supervision now is concentrating on those critical improvements and changes on borrower's farms that will enable them to solve these problems. The aim is not just survival of family farms but continued progress to a level where a borrower can meet future credit needs through conventional lenders."

"The basic issue in farming today is not only where to find the capital to modernize equipment and improve farming operations. Even more important is the quality of farm management. Under the guidance of FHA personnel, borrowers are



GARDEN TIME

BY M. E. GARDNER

The gladiolus is a very popular and satisfactory cut flower and is not too difficult to grow in the home flower garden. They come in a great variety of colors and are most satisfactory after cutting because they last so long when cut and placed in the home, church, school or given to friends. They are not too choosy about soil types either as long as they are reasonably good and well drained. The plants should have full sunshine all day for best results.

Another very fine feature about this crop is that you can have flowers practically all through the growing season by succession planting—a new planting every two or three weeks.

Select corms ("bulbs") of good size which have been treated for diseases and insects. Plant the corms about four inches deep in rows about three feet apart. The corms should be spaced about four inches in the rows.

The larger corms have good reserve food storage making heavy applications of fertilizer unnecessary. I would suggest the use of one pint of an 8-8-8 mixture (granular form, not pellets) for each 50 feet of row. The fertilizer should be applied a week or so before planting the corms and should be

well incorporated with the soil. Close contact with fertilizer may result in damage to tender roots so thorough mixing with the soil is important.

The time of planting will vary considerably, depending upon where you are located. In eastern Carolina the commercial growers plant in late January or early February depending upon soil conditions. In the upper and lower Piedmont, planting may be done from the middle to the latter part of March; and in the mountains, from the middle to the latter part of April.

There are many good varieties of glads from which you may choose. You may purchase mixtures, which may be cheaper, but most gardeners get more satisfaction from knowing varieties by name and purchase on this basis.

Here are a few good varieties, grouped in color classes: white or cream — June Bells, Margaret Beaton, Snow Princess and Mother Fischer; pink — Picardy, Spic and Span, Citation and Fay; red — Beacon, Sans Couci, Valeria and New York; lavender — Minuet, Tyrone and Elizabeth the Queen; yellow — Gold, Van Meegren, Nugget and Yellow Herald; orange — Aranjuez.

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