

NC Rules For Importing Burley Transplants

BY W.C. BLFDSOE
County Extension Chairman

The North Carolina Board of Agriculture adopted strict regulations on the sale and purchase of both in-state and out of state tobacco transplants for Burley (and flue-cured) tobacco growers at their June 1976 meeting. These regulations do not apply to a grower within the state who is producing plants primarily for his own use and sells his surplus to neighboring farmers even across a state line requiring a haul of not more than 30 miles.

PERMIT NECESSARY

Growers wishing to obtain transplants from out of state must submit application in writing to the Director, Pest Control Division, (Al Elder,

N.C. Dept. of Agriculture, Raleigh, N.C. 27611) on or before the first working day in January of the year in which the plants are to be brought into the state. This application should include name and address of the producer, the name and address of the transplant grower, number of plants to be brought into North Carolina, location of where plants are to be transplanted and reason for bringing plants into the state as opposed to growing or obtaining from within the state. Application forms are available at the Extension office.

Information on past performance of the transplant grower and his ability to meet standards as determined by a certifying agency of the state

in which the plants are grown or the Pest Control Division NCDA, will be reviewed by the Director of the Pest Control Division and his staff in determining whether the application will be approved or disapproved.

Dependance Risky

Depending on out of state plants is risky. Approval of the application does not necessarily mean that it will be possible to import plants. For example, the application will be disapproved if it is determined that the grower (in another state) does not meet the certification standards or if the North Carolina producer has provided false or misleading information. The growers interested in importing should by all means check their plant producer, and

especially methods of production used, carefully to be sure that all certification standards are met.

Hardship Situations

Hardship situations should be brought to the attention of the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture immediately. Excess water, hail, frost damage or other unpredictable acts of nature may significantly reduce stand or retard growth in certain sections of the state and result in an emergency or hardship situation. Growers that put forth a real effort to produce their supply of transplants but experience difficulty and find it impossible to purchase from their neighbors should advise their county extension agent immediately and proceed to make application to the Com-

missioner of Agriculture (verbal followed by a written) stating the conditions under which he requests a waiver of the tobacco plant regulations. A committee made up of the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Director of the Pest Control Division, a representative of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NCSU, shall review such requests and reply to the applicant in writing regarding action taken. The regulations were adopted by the Board of Agriculture to discourage importation of plants as a means of reducing disease spread and assuring high plant quality. We hope that the hardship situations will not arise.

CERTIFICATION

Tobacco transplants offer-

ed for sale within the state (except surplus produced by grower) and those requiring import permits (produced outside state beyond 30 mile area) must meet standards included in Regulations for the 1977 crop. The regulations listed below must be followed without exception to meet certification standards.

1. All tobacco plants shall meet the requirements of state and federal plant pest quarantines.

2. The soils in the beds in which the plants are to be grown shall be fumigated under plastic cover with methyl bromide (minimum 60% formulation at the rate indicated on the label for tobacco transplant beds.)

3. All plants shall be field inspected a minimum of 3

days prior to being offered for sale.

4. All plants shall be found apparently free of injurious plant pests including but not limited to insects, diseases and nematodes.

5. Special emphasis shall be made to insure that plants are apparently free of black shank, Granville wilt, Fusarium wilt, virus diseases and root-knot nematodes.

6. To assure freedom from injurious plant pests, the grower (producer of transplants) shall make use of all compatible and approved pest control practices during production.

(Next week: Home Production and Suggestions for Producing Healthy Transplants.)

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