

Concentrate On The Production Of Superior Quality Bright Yellow Grades Of Tobacco In Demand

"Concentrate on the production of superior-quality bright yellow grades—of flue-cured tobacco for 1954 to meet consumer preference for these types in the manufacture of cigarettes."

This comes as timely advice from Tobacco Associates, Inc., as growers begin preparations for their new crop of the "golden weed."

"The buying policies of the manufacturing companies have been affected materially by the nicotine content of flue-cured tobacco during the past two years," the organization's January-February Report declared, emphasizing "the situation is such that tobacco growers should give careful attention to the selection of varieties and cultural practices that result in low nicotine content of the leaf."

Talks with representatives of domestic manufacturers and the foreign trade by Tobacco Associates officials reveal that they want tobaccos that carry these properties: (1) low nicotine content; (2) high sugar content; (3) light body; (4) bright color; (5) porous and fluffy texture, and (6) a clean and merchantable product.

In calling growers' attention

to their role in meeting the nicotine problem, the export promotional body devoted considerable space in its current report to the N. C. Experiment Station's recently released Research Report dealing with this subject. The Research Report points out that "nicotine level is a quality index that is carefully watched in the plant breeding program with resistant varieties averaging about one-half of one per cent less nicotine than do the older lines."

As demonstrated in controlled experiments, the report reveals that the level of nicotine accumulated in flue-cured tobacco is influenced by these factors (1) Varieties are inherently different in their nicotine contents. Both the level of alkaloid synthesis and the chemical nature of the alkaloid are genetically controlled, with the newer disease-resistant varieties somewhat lower in nicotine than the older non-resistant varieties tested. Varieties retain their relative rankings in nicotine despite differences in weather conditions and locations.

(2) Nicotine accumulation is directly related to the level of nitrogen fertility; (3) the nicotine contents of flue-cured tobacco may vary in different cropping systems. Thus, when rotations are used for the control of nematodes, the observed differences may be due to differential root damage but, more probably, to the fertility residues from the previous crop; (4) nicotine is concentrated into the remaining tissues after tobacco is topped and suckered. The degree of the accumulation is directly related

to the severity of the pruning; (5) tobacco, artificially infected with mosaic, is consistently lower in nicotine than the non-infected tobacco; and (6) moisture supply is the most important single factor in regulating the growth and nicotine accumulation of tobacco. This has been forcefully demonstrated in irrigation experiments—varieties differ in their nicotine response to varying moisture conditions.

Tobacco Associates leaders point out that an important

factor in maintaining and expanding our export trade in flue-cured tobacco is the making available of adequate supplies of "high quality cigarette type" leaf which is largely the growers' problem.

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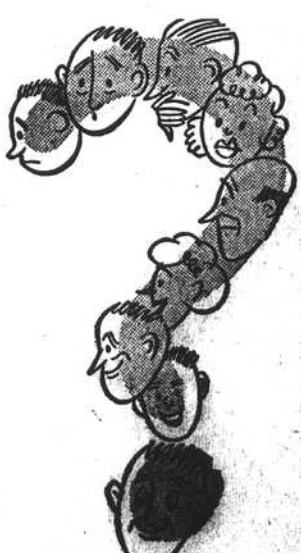


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