

Nematodes Still Plague Area Tobacco Farmers

by Joe Koonce Jr.

Root knot nematodes are attacking the roots of tobacco plants in a large number of fields. The symptoms showing up are rapid ripening and burning of the plants, and considerable leaf spotting. However, all the leaf spotting may not be due to the nematodes.

Since practically all farmers used a soil fumigant, the question naturally arises as to the cause of the nematode outbreak. The best explanation at this time is that the tobacco crop, even though much of it was set fairly early, is generally maturing later than normal. In most years the greater part of the tobacco harvesting is over by the end of the first week in August. This year the crop is from two to three weeks later than usual.

Since soil fumigation at best does not kill all the nematodes in the soil, the nematodes not killed by the fumigation have been able to increase sufficiently to cause injury to tobacco before it is harvested. There may be other reasons for the amount of nematode

damage but this explanation is generally accepted as the main one.

One practice that farmers can follow that will help reduce nematode losses in the future is the plowing out of the tobacco roots just as soon as the tobacco is harvested.

Nematodes in the roots are destroyed by the drying effect of the sun and the population is reduced considerably. The practice of plowing out the roots will supplement the benefits from soil fumigation and crop rotations. The three practices will give better results if all are used in the right combination rather than any one alone.

The plowing out of the root should take place immediately after harvest and before the nematodes move back into the soil. The present situation indicates that nematodes move back into the soil. The present situation indicates that nematodes will continue to be a problem in tobacco production and every practice that offers any help in reducing losses should be used to the fullest extent.

Better Cotton Marketing Aim of New Lenoir Association

by Joe Koonce Jr.

The Lenoir Cotton Improvement Association has completed arrangements which provides Lenoir County cotton farmers with the marketing service benefits available under the Smith-Doxey Act.

All cotton growers in Lenoir County can get their cotton sampled free at the time it is ginned. The sample is sent to the cotton Classing Office where it is classed and in a few days the farmer receives a card giving the grade of cotton. The farmer can then look up the support price for the grade and compare the support price against the market price. From this comparison he can decide whether to sell his cotton in the open market or secure the benefits of support price program.

The two gins — Dawson's of Kinston, and Kinsey of La Grange — in Lenoir County cooperate in this program by providing a bonded sampler at the gin.

The acreage planted to cotton in Lenoir has been dwindling each year with the allotment being only

2465.7 acres in 1956. The full allotment was not planted in 1956.

While the allotment is small every effort should be made to get the maximum income from the cotton produced. This free classing service will enable a cotton grower to obtain the highest income from his cotton. By making full use of the price support program, cotton farmers can frequently get more money from their cotton than they otherwise would have.

Officers of the Lenoir Cotton Improvement Association are J. A. Shackelford of Route 1, Hookerton, President; F. J. Koonce, Jr., of Kinston, Group Representative; and C. R. Sutton of Route 3 La Grange, Alternate Group Representative.

In 1955 Lenoir County sampled only 23.7 per cent of the bales of cotton ginned in the county. In 1954 only 17.1 per cent were sampled. It is felt that more farmers could make use of this service and it is hoped that there will be increased participation this coming season.

Kinston Corporation Buys Warehouse in Virginia Burley Belt.

Speculation got in high gear on the Kinston Tobacco Market this week when a corporation was chartered in Raleigh by Dempsey W. Hodges, J. Leonard Brown and Phil Crawford to operate under the name New Dixie Warehouse, Inc.

Hodges, who is manager of the Kinston Co-operative Warehouse, soon put the speculation to rest, however, by announcing that the corporation which he heads had not and was not going to buy the Dixie Warehouse in Kinston which is owned by John Jenkins and Louie Pollock.

The new corporation has purchased the New Dixie Warehouse at Abingdon, Va. in the burley tobacco belt and will operate it this season.

DuPont to Expand Dacron Production By About 25%

The construction of additional manufacturing facilities to provide increased staple spinning capacity at the local Du Pont plant was announced today by W. E. Gladding, Manager.

Minor modifications will also be made in the chemical processing equipment while product storage and shipping facilities will be somewhat enlarged.

The project, when completed, will increase the production of Dacron in the form of staple and tow by approximately 25%.

Gladding said that increased consumer demand for "Dacron" has necessitated this expansion at the local plant which began commercial production in March, 1953.

Construction work will be started by September 1, 1956 and will be

done by the plant's local engineering organization. Initial operation of the new facilities is expected in the second quarter of next year, with only a slight increase in employment.

Total employment at the plant at present is approximately 2000 people.

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