

Jones Agent Offers Good Advice On Improving Woodlot Income

By M. B. Wright

Assistant County Agent Jones County

It takes much study and long years of experience to become a forester. But just as a man need first aid and practice the rules of not be a doctor in order to give healthful living, so the owner of a small forest can keep his trees vigorous and productive by following some simple rules of good forest management such as thinning, selective cutting, reseedling or replanting, and protecting it from fire and disease.

Proper managing of the forest trees on his farm can make the farmer more prosperous, help educate his children, add to his home comforts, and increase the value of the farm as an investment.

The well managed farm woods will supply the farmer with timber for buildings, fences, and repairs of all kinds; and there will often be a surplus of standing timber, say logs, post, poles, pulpwood and other forest products which can be marketed. The farm forest provides off-season work and so does not conflict with crops or other phases of farm management.

Approximately 40 per cent of our private forest lands are in farm ownership. This alone indicates the importance of the forest as a farm asset. Many farm woodlands are cut without any thought of keeping them continuously productive; many are clean-cut of all merchantable timber.

The farmer should know how to cut his timber properly so that he may currently harvest the timber that needs to be cut and keep his young thrifty timber for the continuous production of future trees.

There never was a better time to make a small forest pay. Timber is scarce almost everywhere in the world. Wood products bring good prices and good lumber from large straight, clear logs will always command a market. By investing some time and care, owners of small forest can earn cash and at the same time put their timber in condition to return frequent profits in the future.

Our woodlands are a great responsibility. Besides providing lumber and other wood products, forest build up the soil, give a steady supply of water and help prevent floods that gully our fields and wash our valuable topsoil away. Nevertheless, we have abused them in the past, probably because we thought that they were so big they would last forever.

Our farm woodlands seem to be in the worst shape of all our forest lands; consequently, they must be rebuilt, for without them we can hardly live as a prosperous healthy nation.

Congress has set aside money to help the States provide small forest owners with assistance and advice on all phases of forest management. Help on forest management problems can be secured through your County Farm Agent or your Soil Conservationist. By making application through them, the owner can obtain the services of a forester who will visit the owner's woodland and give on-the-spot advice for managing it.

Generally this advice will be free, but the forester expects the owner to follow his suggestions. In a sense this is the owner's way of carrying his share of the responsibility.

Soil Test Proves to be Real Money Saver

More farmers than ever are having their soil tested before buying lime and fertilizer, according to latest figures. But there are still those that like to take a chance

Guessing about fertilization is highly costly, according to a Negro farm agent. And having the soil tested can be a real money saver.

C. R. Greene, Bladen County farm agent for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, says there are many examples of farmers profiting by having their soil tested and then following the recommendations. But none prove the point better than Pleasant Campbell, Clarkton, Rt. 2.

Recently Greene stopped by the Campbell farm and was greeted with broad smiles. "You know," said Campbell, "I've made more money on my tobacco crop this year than ever before. And my fertilizer bill was less, too. I'm also expecting my best corn yield."

Campbell had the soil in each of his fields tested last year. Greene asked if he had followed the Soil Testing Division's (N. C. Dept. of Agriculture) fertilizer recommendations. "Sure we did," was the answer. "And it has meant less money spent for fertilizer and bigger crop yields all around. Just let me show you some of my tobacco sales."

Greene says Campbell's sales slips showed that he had a yield of 1,935 pounds per acre which brought \$63.43 per hundred pounds.

The Negro farm agent quotes Campbell as declaring, "We have stopped forever guessing about how much and what kind of fertilizer to use. We get our soil tested!"



I "laid down" on our genial and capable Editor Ed Burks last week because I was too busy with students getting the fall semester started. Students are our most important crop here at State College and they come first with me. Perhaps some of you missed the column; at least I hope you did.

Some time ago I devoted most of my column to a discussion of Gibberellic Acid and suggested that you try it on some of your African Violets. I had a report or two that it would be tried but have not had a report on the results. In any event, I have tried to keep pace with developments as far as research with this material is concerned. Here are some of the latest as reported by scientists attending a recent meeting at Stanford University. We will call it GA.

GA reverses the stunting effect caused by certain virus diseases in corn, crimson clover and asters. On tomatoes, sprays of GA speed up flowering, increase fruit set and hasten ripening. It also pro-

notes more even ripening. The time may come when we will be adding GA to our spray tanks because it has been found that, when mixed with such materials as captan, neither the effectiveness of the fungicide nor GA are reduced. Spraying Thompson seedless grapes, the kind from California that you buy at your grocery store, with GA has a tendency to loosen tight clusters, increase size and hasten harvest. On Irish potatoes, spraying the vines just before digging breaks tuber dormancy so the spuds can be replanted immediately, if desired.

GA is still expensive but manufacturing methods are being improved to the extent that we may have hope that the price will soon be in the range of all who wish to use it. You may remember that Gibberellic Acid, GA, or "Gibrel" was isolated from a fungus which grows on rice in Japan. It is now

believed by scientists that two or three more gibberelin-like substances, which occur in nature, are yet to be discovered.

Don't leave your garden naked this winter. Seed it with oats to prevent erosion and provide organic matter to turn under in the spring.

A Happy Note

By Betty Barclay

As smoothly sweet and effortless as the mellifluous tones of the famous opera star for which it is named, is this



Puttling Peach Melba

4 peach halves, drained (canned or fresh); 2 cups milk; 1 package Jell-O Strawberry Instant

Puttling; Dash of salt; Raspberry or Strawberry Jam.

Place each peach half in a chilled sherbet glass. Pour milk into mixing bowl. Add puttling mix and salt and beat with egg beater just until well mixed, about 1 minute. Do not overbeat; mixture will be thin. Pour puttling over peaches in sherbets and let stand to set—about 5 minutes. Top each serving with a spoonful of raspberry or strawberry jam. Makes 4 servings.

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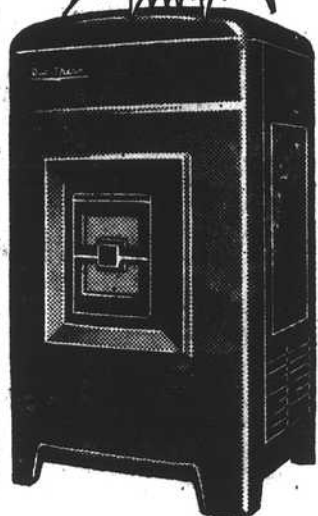
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