

## 1,000 - Bushel Sweet Potato Yield Possible By '69, Says Specialist

An extension horticultural specialist at North Carolina State has predicted that a Tar Heel sweet potato grower "will produce 1,000 bushels of marketable potatoes on one acre within five years."

This seemingly astronomical yield will be possible, says Henry Covington, because of the rapid pace at which new production know-how is being developed and put into practice.

Covington pointed out that the average sweet potato yield in North Carolina rose from 104 to 236 bushels per acre from 1954 to 1962.

"You can see how fast we are moving," Covington added, "when you realize that we only increased our average yield by 35 bushels from 1868 to 1954."

In other words, a mushrooming of sweet potato production efficiency has set in within the last decade.

One grower, Noah D. Griffin, Williamston, Rt. 1, grew 581 bushels of U. S. 1 fresh market sweet potatoes on an acre in 1963. Ed and Hayes Beamon, Goldsboro Rt. 6, produced 845 bushels of marketable potatoes (including canners) on an acre in 1962, of which 546 bushels were U. S. 1's.

Covington attributes the rapid rise in sweet potato production efficiency to research and the eagerness of growers to accept improved varieties and cultural practices.

One of the chief means for promoting improved practices is the "400-Bushel Sweet Potato Club," which is sponsored by the N. C. Sweet Potato Association, Inc.

Covington says the Club has been a leading advocate of the Extension Service's recommended practices for producing high yields of top quality potatoes. These practices are commonly referred to as the "All-Practice Sweet Potato Program."

Not only does the Club push good production practices, but it provides a means for top growers to be recognized. Top yielders in three contest areas of the state are awarded \$110 each. Nine plaques are provided, and members of the 400-Bushel Club take an annual trip to size up markets and competing production areas.

Covington pointed out that support for the 400-Bushel Sweet Potato Club is only one of many activities for the N. C. Sweet Potato Association, Inc. The organization, which is headed by executive secretary Ed Briggs, is financed by voluntary grower assessments. A vote will be held on Sept. 15 to determine whether the organization will be continued.

### Veterans Corner

**Q** — I have a policy loan on my World War II life insurance policy. Can payments on this loan be made in any amount, or are there restrictions?

**A** — The only restriction is that the payment be at least five dollars. Any payment of five dollars or more is acceptable.

**Q** — I have been receiving \$75 compensation because of my son's death in service. Has this rate been

## Army Worms Attack Time to Fight Is Now

The Fall Armyworm is particularly numerous this year and is doing damage to pastures and lawn grasses in certain areas of the county, according to Assistant Jones County Farm Agent E. W. Barnes.

Barnes said, "there appears to be a rapid build-up of this pest." Pasture grasses and lawns are under the heaviest attack and suffering the greatest injury at the present time. As indicated, the fall armyworm prefers grasses, but it will be well for us to remember they have good appetites and will eat about anything they come across. This includes soybeans, peanuts, legume forages, vegetables and other horticultural crops.

He further explained that at this time of year the farmer is often busy grading and marketing his tobacco and fails to check his other crops, such as soybeans. Consequently, it may be a week or two before a good close check is made of these crops.

Because of this recent build-up of fall army-worm it is recommended that farmers make frequent checks for the armyworm and other pests. Barnes emphasized this can be a very damaging insect and it is possible to go look at a field of soybeans and find only the stalks left.

Your local extension office can supply you with insecticide recommendations according to crop being damaged if help is needed.

increased lately?

**A** — A new law provides graduated rates to parents, depending upon other income which must be estimated and reported each year. Rates have been increase about 10 per cent.

**Q** — Will the VA let me know who is listed as beneficiary on my government life insurance.

**A** — Yes, the VA will give you that information upon request. However, if you are not sure who the beneficiaries are, it is preferable to make a new designation the way you want it now. This will cancel all previous designations.

## Knitters and Crocheters Urged To Enter Upcoming Needle Contest

With fall in the air, thoughts turn to the N. C. State Fair which will be held in Raleigh, Oct. 12-17. Knitters and crocheters should be especially aware of the time if they are planning to enter the National Wool Needlework Contest.

Miss Marjorie Shearin, Extension creative crafts specialist at N. C. State, says some of the rules are different from last year. The main difference is that there will be only three classes in the knitted and crocheted groups instead of five as in 1963.

The three different classes include afghans, sweaters, and the three piece baby sets (jacket, cap and booties). You can have entries in the crocheted and knitted groups.

Miss Shearin says all entries must be either knitted or crocheted using 100 per cent wool or mohair yarn in-any ply. The label from the yarn used must be attached to the entry and will not be judged unless the label is attached. Synthetic yarns and blends are not acceptable.

Professional needlework designers, instructresses or teachers are not eligible to participate in the contest.

Judging will be based on workmanship, beauty of design, and general appearance. The "Best of Fair" entry will be chosen from first place blue ribbon winners in all classifications and will be awarded an engraved trophy.

Following the state fair, the top blue ribbon winners in each class of the crocheted and knitted groups will be eligible to send their winning entries to be judged nationally.

The grand national champion will receive a cash prize of \$1,000 plus



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**GARDEN TIME**  
m. e. gardner  
n. c. state college

Fair time is just around the corner. Why not prepare now to enter and exhibit in your local fair? Also, don't forget the State Fair in Raleigh in October.

It is highly desirable that you support your community fair because it will be just as good, or as bad, as the community wishes to make it.

You must have something worth entering in competition with your neighbors and in which you could take pride in showing.

How many times have you visited your fair, stood in front of a fruit, vegetable or flower exhibit and remarked: I have specimens at home better than any I have seen here. And you may be right. The trouble is you won't win any blue ribbons. The same is true for flower arrangements and canned fruits and vegetables.

Before you enter an exhibit be sure to carefully read the catalog instructions for each class because they guide the judges in making awards. This is especially true if competition is keen. All entries

must be properly labeled and entered in the right class.

Strive for perfection. In the flower classes, all entries should have good stems, perfect foliage and perfect blooms. Good condition at the time of judging is essential. This is especially true with cut flowers such as roses.

Vegetables should be true to variety name, of acceptable market size and free of blemishes caused by insects, diseases, and bruises. All specimens on a plate or tray of sweetpotatoes should be smooth, of good skin color and uniform. Irish potatoes need not be washed unless you think it will improve the appearance.

Fruits, such as apples, should be true to varietal characteristics, uniform, of good color (in color sorts) and free from blemishes. All specimens on a plate, for example, should be as near the same size as possible with stems attached.

These are a few suggestions which may be helpful in arousing your interest. The important point is to study your catalog and comply with the instructions as outlined.

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