

# 1971 SEED CORN CHOICE VITAL FOR BLIGHT RESISTANT CORN

North Carolina corn growers must add a new word to their vocabulary and bone up on their NBT's in order to make the best seed selection for 1971. The new word is cytoplasm. It's not really new, but in the past it's been fairly well confined to use by plant breeders and agricultural scientists — and of very little interest to farmers.

But in 1971, because of the corn blight and the close relationship of the disease to Texas male sterile cytoplasm, the word will be critically important to the entire corn industry, including farmers.

Corn grown from seed produced by the use of the Texas male sterile, or T cytoplasm, was shown to be highly susceptible to blight last season. The N in the corn alphabet stands of normal cytoplasm. The B stands for blend, meaning mixed seeds, some containing T cytoplasm and some containing N cytoplasm.

North Carolina State University corn specialists A. D. Stuart and S. J. Hodges are urging farmers to select seed for 1971 on the basis of content of N cytoplasm. This corn showed tolerance to blight in 1970 and offers the best chance of avoiding the disease in 1971.

The N. C. Department of Agriculture recently adopted a regulation that will require 1971 corn seed to be labeled to show the percentage of N and T cytoplasm.

Hodges and Stuart commented that, as a general rule of thumb, growers could assume that the higher the N percentage, the higher degree of blight tolerance the seed will have based on 1970 observance. The 100 percent normal cytoplasm seed would be safest. Unfortunately, the supply of these seed is limited.

This will mean farmers are likely to be selecting from

blends of N and T corn and, in some cases, second generation of F-2 corn seed from a hybrid.

The F-2 seed cannot be offered for sale in North Carolina as a named hybrid. They can be labeled, "corn — variety not stated" and these words written in brackets or parenthesis: "(F-2 from variety)." The percent N and T must be shown.

Stuart and Hodges explained that growers will be losing the extra vigor of a hybrid by planting second generation seed. However, where these seed have been selected from normal cytoplasm plants that produced well under blight conditions in 1970, they may offer more potential than a T variety or a blend high in T cytoplasm content.

Agronomists figure that roughly 20 per cent of the yield potential is lost when second generation seed are planted from a double cross hybrid. If the seed were saved from a single cross hybrid, the potential loss would be 30 per cent or more.

These estimated losses do not include any loss that might re-

sult from blight or other causes.

Risks of further reduction in potential yield are cited in cases where farmers use F-2 seed from a crop planted last year to a hybrid blend.

In the 1970 blend was 50 per cent normal and 50 per cent Texas cytoplasm, for example, the F-2 seed would be of the same percentage. This means half of the plants in the 1971 F-2 planting would have T cytoplasm and therefore be susceptible to blight. This potential loss would be in addition to that expected from having used F-2 seed to begin with. The total yield reduction potential in this case could be 70 per cent or more.

The NCSU agronomists believe that farmers using F-2 seed should pay careful attention to whether the seed were saved from a 100 per cent normal cytoplasm hybrid or a blend.

They are also urging farmers to contact their regular seed suppliers early and order the best seed available. "Best" in this case is regarded as those seed highest in N cytoplasm.

Hodges and Stuart suggested that growers read the seed tags and keep one from each variety planted as a record. Keeping a

small sample of the seed — about a half cupful in a sealed container — may also be helpful for future comparison. It is also important, the specialist said, to keep a record of what variety is planted in each field.

accident east of Kinston Saturday night.

### Henry Stocks

Funeral services were held Sunday in Norfolk for Henry Stocks, 59, of 706 College Street, Kinston, who died last Thursday morning.

### Walter Franklin Harmon

Funeral services were held Wednesday for Walter Franklin Harmon, 65, of 806 William St., who died Tuesday.

We exaggerate misfortune and happiness alike. We are never either so wretched or so happy as we say we are.

From Southern Railway's "Ties"

## DEATHS

### James Guy Turner

Funeral services were held Monday for James Guy Turner of Pink Hill route 1 who died Saturday.

### Burl Whitley III

Funeral services were held Monday for Burl Whitley III, 21, of Dover who was killed in an



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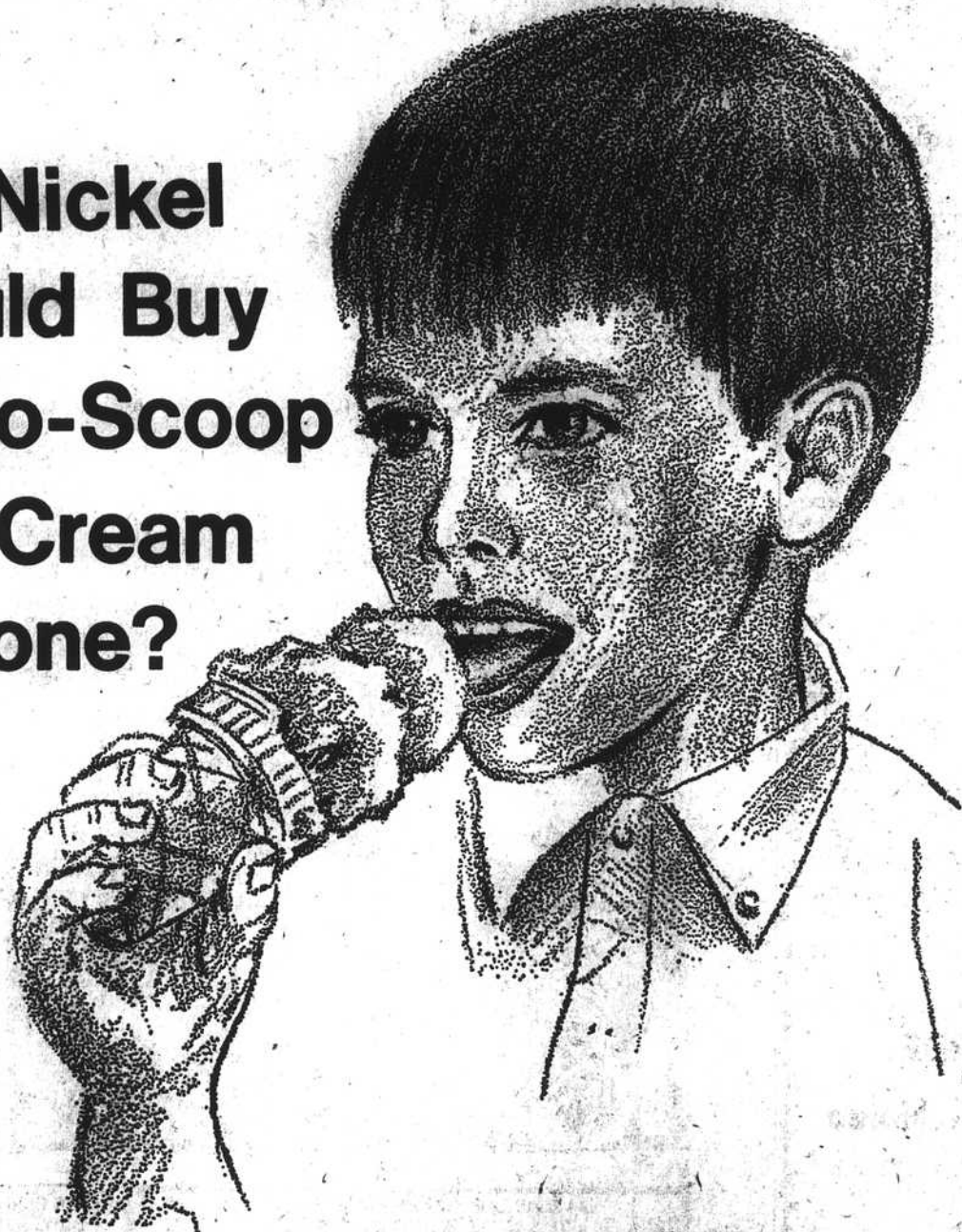
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## MEDICAL MILESTONES



LOUIS PASTEUR (1822-95) WAS THE FIRST TO PUT TO EXPERIMENTAL PROOF THE THEORY THAT BACTERIA ARE THE CAUSES OF SOME DISEASES IN MAN AND ANIMALS. VIOLENTLY OPPOSED AT THE TIME HIS DISCOVERIES UNDERLIE THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF THE PREVENTION AND CURE OF MANY COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.



WHETHER YOU HAVE THE HOT BROW OF FEVER, THE THROBBING PAIN OF A SPLITTING HEADACHE OR THE SWELLING JOINTS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT ASPIRIN IS MOST FREQUENTLY THE PHYSICIAN'S SAFE CHOICE TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER FAST.



EVERY DAY THE NATION'S PHARMACISTS RECEIVE MORE THAN 170,000 PHONE CALLS FROM PHYSICIANS, PERHAPS TO VERIFY THE NAME OF A DRUG OR CHECK THE RECOMMENDED DOSE. SOME DOCTORS ALSO LIKE TO DROP IN AT A LOCAL PHARMACY OCCASIONALLY TO LOOK OVER THE NEW PRODUCTS SECTION.