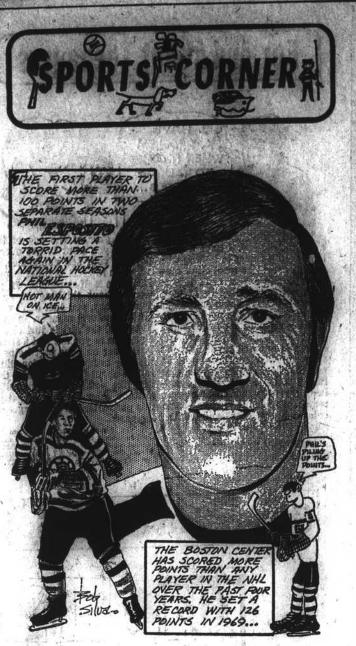
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## SEED CORN KEY FACTOR IN FIGHTING SOUTHERN CORN BLIGHT

The seed North Carolina corn growers plant this spring will determine more than any other single factor the degree of susceptibility and resistance to the leaf blight that ravaged last year's crop.

This was the initial observation made last summer and the experts have found no reason to alter it, according to North Carlina State University extension pathologist J. C. Wells and agronomist A. D. Stuart.

The Texas or T cytoplasm used widely as a source of male sterility in seed production is directly associated with blight susceptibility. The rule of susceptibility. thumb is, the higher the T cytoplasm content the higher the disease risk. Seed of 100 per cent normal or N cytoplasm offer the highest level of pro- ent and will not have to be tection from the new race of blown in from the Deep South. blight as it was observed on 1970

Third choice, F-2 or second generation seed from 100 per cent N varieties.

Fourth choice, seed being of-fered on a limited basis from male pollinators from 100 per cent N inbreds.

Fifth choice, open pollinated corn or the type widely grown in North Carolina before hybrids were adopted.

Sixth choice, an alternate crop. Stuart and Wells provided answers for the following questions, which are among those most frequently asked by grow-

ers: Q. What can growers expect from the blight in 1971?

A. The threat generally is greater than last year, largely because the organism that causes the disease is already pres-

that was in corn last year, deep plow where this hasn't already been done and grow the 1971 corn by the no-tillage method. Sixth, reduce plant population by roughly 2,000 plants below that recommended on seed tags. Seventh, keep fields free of grass and weeds that will prolong high moisture conditions around the lower part of the plant. Eigth, avoid planting, if possible, on low lying fields were surface moisture conditions would tend to create conditions favorable for fungus buildup.

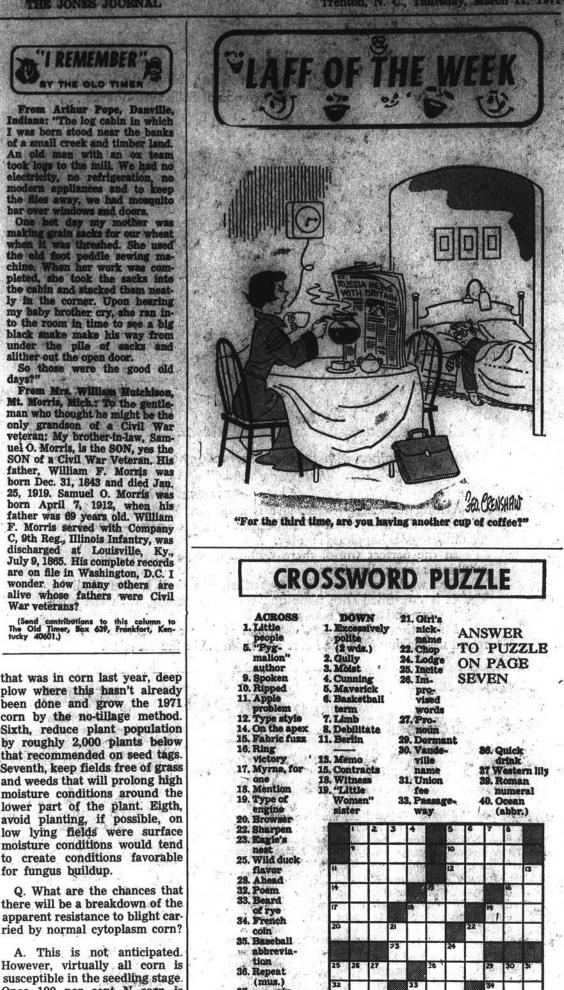
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Q. What are the chances that there will be a breakdown of the apparent resistance to blight carried by normal cytoplasm corn?

A. This is not anticipated. However, virtually all corn is susceptible in the seedling stage. Once 100 per cent N corn is past this stage, resistance should be very good.

Q. Is there a test for T and N cytoplasm content of seed corn?

A. The one known test available is provided by the Iowa seed testing laboratory for a cost of \$11 per sample.



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