

NORTH CAROLINA STATE  
UNIVERSITY AT  
D. L.

# THE ARATOR.



*Agriculture is the great art, which every Government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practice, and every inquirer into nature to improve.—JOHNSON.*

**DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ITS KINDRED ARTS.**

**VOL. I. RALEIGH, MARCH, 1853. NO. XII.**

## NORTH-CAROLINA ARATOR.

By THOS. J. LEMAY, Editor & Proprietor.

**TERMS.**—Published on the first of every month, at ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, in advance, or \$1.50 if not paid until the end of the year.

**Advertisements,** not exceeding twelve lines for each and every insertion, one dollar—containing more at the same rates.

### TURPENTINE.

*Hints for those about to engage in its manufacture.*

#### SITUATION.

SELECT your plantation as near a distillery as you can; but you may do a very profitable business six or seven miles off, if the country is favorable for hauling. If the distillery is on a river, turpentine may be hauled two or three miles and rafted down forty or fifty miles, cheaper than to haul to the still over six or seven miles. Yet persons already settled on thin pine lands, can do better to make turpentine and haul it ten or twelve miles, than at anything else they make for market.

#### TIMBER.

The best trees are young, thriving, on pretty good soil, of quick growth, having the most sap-wood. If found on low level or moist lands, they will yield all the better. Dry seasons are unfavorable for a large crop of turpentine, and, of course, trees on lands that suffer easily from drouth, are least profitable. Old yellow pines run badly, and are only worth boxing when standing amidst better timber.

The thicker the growth stands the better, as close forests are less injured by hard winds than those more open, while the hand has less ground to walk over in attending his task. Forests that will not afford a task of 12,000 boxes on 200 acres or less, are hardly worth working, unless they are very near the still, or water carriage to it.

#### BOXING.

As the future profit of the business depends chiefly on doing this part of the work well, let it be carefully attended to, observing the following instructions:

1st. In our climate (Florida and South western Georgia) this work must be done between the 1st of November and the 1st of March, or a little later if the spring is backward and cold, and the turpentine does not begin to run.

2nd. The boxes must be cut low down—in small trees within six or eight inches of the ground, and ten or twelve inches in large trees. This will be at the swell of the roots, where the sap-wood is deepest, and the tree least weakened by the cut, and because the drip is more certain to fall into the box when it is cut in the projecting wood.—And for this last reason, when the tree is not upright, a box must never be cut on the side to which it leans.

3rd. The box should be from eight to fifteen inches long, measuring across the tree, according to its size. The lower edge or rim of the chop must be a level cut, very smooth, and have a down slope inwards of two or three inches below the

S. I.  
A7  
v. 1  
no. 12  
cop. 2