

PAMLICO COUNTY NEWS

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**NORTH CAROLINA
Farm Tips**

From
Wachovia Bank & Trust Co., N.A.



By Dr. J. W. Pou

About 600,000 North Carolina-grown Christmas trees are on the market this year.

Production of the trees on a commercial basis is a relatively new industry in the state according to Bill Humphries, agricultural information specialist at N. C. State University. It started on a small scale in Avery County about 15 years ago and has grown rather rapidly.

"We're headed toward an annual harvest of one million trees in the next few years," said William T. Huxster, forestry section leader for the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service. Their retail sales value, he added, will exceed \$10 million.

About 35 million Yule trees are sold annually in the United States.

Tar Heel growers have several advantages in competing for the Christmas tree market, the North Carolina State University extension specialist said.

The Fraser fir and the white pine are the two types most widely grown in the state. No state south of here can grow the Fraser fir and only South Carolina can produce the white pine.

"We also have a competitive advantage in freight costs as compared with such areas as Michigan and Canada," Huxster said.

North Carolina trees are transported by truck, and about 60 percent are shipped to Baltimore, Miami, New Orleans and several large cities in Texas.

Trees for the Miami market are hauled in refrigerated trucks and many dealers sell direct from truck to customer so they can deliver a fresh, quality product.

The state's Christmas tree plantations are concentrated in mountain counties, but there is a significant acreage in the Piedmont. Also, there are some successful plantings in the upper Coastal Plain.

About 600 growers in the state have combined plantings of more than 6,000 acres.

White pine seedlings are kept in a nursery about two years and Fraser firs about five years. Then the seedlings are transplanted to the field, where they grow for an additional eight years before reaching marketable size.

A typical planting averages around 1,500 trees per acre.

"Christmas trees are an intensive-culture crop," Huxster said. "The grower must apply proper fertilization, control weeds, insects and diseases, and shear and prune the trees to proper shape and density."

There are U. S. Department of Agriculture grades for the trees, and reputable growers discard trees that are diseased, of improper size or shape, or otherwise below federal standards.

Both the N. C. Forest Service and private companies operate nurseries to produce an adequate supply of seedlings. On Roan Mountain, the U. S. Forest Service conducts a program to protect native firs from a pest known as the balsam woolly aphid.

N. C. State University's School of Forest Resources and the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station are conducting breeding work to develop trees with improved color, density and disease resistance.

"The average customer wants a pyramid-shaped tree with no holes in the foliage, a strong, well-structured bottom section, and a six to nine inch handle at the base," Huxster said.

Tree plantations are well-managed enterprises that produce a crop intended for commercial use. There is no residual damage to native stands.

Huxster provides the following advice for buyers: Select a good, fresh tree with pliable needles, and buy early. After taking the tree home, make a fresh cut at the base and place the tree in water to prevent drying out and shedding of leaves. After the holidays the tree can be used to provide shelter for birds and a place for them to feed, or it can be converted to mulch or burned.

Caswell News

By Jean I. C. Tarbory

The picture was large, colorful and most impressive. It covered the wide glass leading into the Recreation Building. It symbolized plenty for there was a squirrel sitting on a huge pumpkin. It symbolized communication for there was an Indian shaking hands with a Pilgrim with one hand and holding a turkey in the other.

Jo Batchelor of the Recreation Department painted this for the day-long square dance organized by the Special Events Committee for November 24. Skip Almond, Habilitation Specialist, Division B and Ben Ramsaur, Music Therapist, played the banjo. Johnnie Rice, Music Therapist and Susan Twilley, teacher, led a team of square dancers. Residents came for periods of 45 minutes to watch and then to participate. Recreation workers dressed as Pilgrims and Indians brightened the scene and were given an apple when they left.

Was it the most important event of the week... Certainly it

was the one the residents were most aware of. Two other important events will, we hope, also make life better for the residents. On November 22 our area legislators, Senator Harold Hardison and Representative Dan Lilley, Chris Barker and Joe Bright visited the center to learn more about its new role, its objectives, and its needs.

On November 23 the State Steering Committee for the planning of chapels in the four institutions for the retarded visited us to learn more about our residents and their spiritual needs. We communicated with our visitors. Some day we may have plenty or at least enough to enable us to let our residents live in dignity.

Sea Grant News

By JOHANNA SELTZ

Coliform may not be all that it's cracked up to be.

Coliform is a bacteria that is used as an indicator of fecal pollution. Everyone uses it—it's the international testing organism—for checking water quality.

If coliform is present in a water sample at the coast, the shellfish that live in the water are judged polluted and put off limits to public use. If coliform is not present, the coast is clear and the water and shellfish are assumed to be pollution free.

But recent tests by University of North Carolina Sea Grant researchers show that coliform's absence may not guarantee a clean water supply or unpolluted seafood.

Dr. Marvin Speck, a bacteriologist at North Carolina State University, has found that coliform does not warn of some harmful bacteria, particularly vibrio parahaemolyticus, which causes nausea, cramps and all the other nasty symptoms of food poisoning. And Dr. Mark Sobsey, a virologist at UNC-Chapel Hill, suspects that coliform is a poor indicator of viruses that cause such diseases as hepatitis and polio.

"Coliform is a good indicator of other bacterial pathogens such as the salmonella and shigella," Speck said. "But we know that coliform is not an accurate index for vibrio parahaemolyticus. We found that many times we can find samples containing vibrio where coliform is absent."

Until recently, public health officials didn't worry that coliform didn't detect vibrio parahaemolyticus because they didn't think the bacteria existed in North American seafood, Speck said.

"Vibrio had been recognized in Japan as a problem (causing about 70 per cent of all bacterial food poisonings) but only in the past few years have we even bothered to look for it. We assumed that the Japanese were having problems because the Japanese ate so much raw sea food. We didn't realize it could be a problem in seafoods we thought were properly handled," Speck said.

"Well, we looked for it and we found it."

Speck's studies show that vibrio is the major pathogen in North Carolina seafoods. The level of contamination is quite high, causing a public health problem.

Now that Speck and his research team of Cameron Hackney and Bibek Ray have discovered that vibrio is a North Carolina problem and that coliform doesn't seem to be a good way to find the "new" bacteria, they are looking for a coliform substitute.

One of the reasons coliform is now used universally as a test organism is that it is easily and quickly detected.

These are essential characteristics, especially in North Carolina, since the State Shellfish Sanitation Lab must test water from 2,500 sampling stations in about 5,000 separate tests a year. Any new test organism must also be easy to use in order to be practical.

While Speck and his team are busy searching for a quick and easy vibrio-finder, Sobsey and his associates at Chapel Hill are developing a test for detecting viruses in shellfish.

Like the bacteria vibrio, it appears that many viruses are tougher to find than coliform and will be present in water and seafoods even when coliform is gone. Sobsey will be working with the State Shellfish Sanitation Lab this year to verify the relationship between viruses and coliform. Each month samples from polluted and non-polluted shellfish areas will be sent to Sobsey to be tested for viruses.

Sobsey already has developed a test for detecting viruses in clams and oysters, a test which won his graduate student Robert Carrick one of three national Sea Grant awards. By the end of the year, Sobsey and the state should know for sure if coliform tests are any good for detecting viruses. If, as Sobsey fears,

coliform tests fail in virus-finding, he hopes to have a simple virus-detection method to offer the state.

"So far, coliform has been adequate. Whether it's the best or not, I can't say, but there are pros and cons," said State Shellfish Sanitation Lab spokesman Robert Benton. "But it's really good that we are getting research in this area. This will put more validity on what we're doing or indicate some changes that need to be made. I feel the research is really needed."

Obituary

MAYO

Funeral services for Grady F. Mayo, 50, of Vandemere, were held at 2 p. m. Wednesday at Norris Funeral Chapel in Alliance with Dr. E. T. Isley officiating. Burial was in Celestial Gardens.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Edna Ireland Mayo; one daughter, Mrs. Ray W. Lee of Aurora; three sons, Ernest of the home and Perry E. of Aurora and Grady R. Mayo of New Bern; two sisters, Mrs. Hiram Lewis and Mrs. Odell Spain of Hobucken and a brother, James Mayo of Alliance; two grandchildren.

Food Quality

By JOHN SLEDGE

The American farmer supplies our country—as well as many other nations, with the highest quality food grown anywhere in the world. This abundance has been possible only because of the farmer's outstanding productive capacity and his reliance upon the latest in technological advances.

Interest in better nutrition by people all over the world has put even more emphasis on high quality food during the past years. Farmers recognize their responsibility in meeting this challenge and are obviously succeeding in this direction. Farmers support policies and programs to assure consumers of wholesome products, to provide consumers with full product information and to require new food products to meet the same quality and health requirements as existing food products.

As consumers, we all desire an abundance of the very highest quality food possible.

Club Outing

Early on the morning of November 17, thirteen members of the Arapahoe Retirement Club and their guests departed from Bethany Christian Church in Arapahoe for a day's outing to Bath and Belhaven. The group went first to the Visitors Center in Bath and then toured the Palmer Marsh and Bonner homes and St. Thomas Church. Following the tour, the group traveled to River Forest Manor in Belhaven where they enjoyed a delicious lunch before returning to Arapahoe via the Pamlico River Ferry. Those who were able to make this trip expressed how much they had enjoyed it and look forward to future trips of this kind.

The December meeting of the Club will be a Dutch luncheon at the Minnott Beach Restaurant on the 15th. Interested persons are invited to join them on this day but are requested to advise Mrs. Neva McCotter if they plan to attend. An invitation is extended to all retired persons in the area to visit the club, whose membership is open.

Pretty Wrapping Says Much About Your Gift

One of the nicest ways to express your personality is through gift wrapping, note extension home economics specialists, North Carolina State University.

A gift doesn't need to be expensive or glamorous to express your feelings, they add. Even the most practical, useful gift takes on excitement and interest when it's attractively wrapped.

Prettily wrapped packages are inexpensive, fun and easy to do. Gift papers can be purchased for as little as 30 cents.

Start by selecting a paper design to suit each family member and friend. Even the most beautiful bow can't rescue a care-

lessly wrapped box. Assemble the wrapping papers, ribbons, scissors and a roll of tape on a solid flat surface. Be sure to cut the paper large enough for the package, allowing enough to go around the box and overlap about two inches. It should extend beyond the ends of the box no more than three-quarters of the depth.

Tape the lid to the box to prevent bulges and add firmness. Lay the box upside down on the paper, making sure to center the pattern so it shows to the best advantage. Fold the paper neatly around the box and seal with tape. Miter the end corners and seal.

Parents 'Get Down' To Play with Your Child

It's important for all parents to take time to get down and play with their children. And you can take that "get down" literally.

Extension human development specialists, North Carolina State University, says parents are the most inviting as play mates if they're close to the floor where the children are.

However, if you're a parent who finds it hard to be playful, then take a while to watch your child at play before joining him, the specialists suggest.

Discover which playthings are favorites and why. Then, let the child be the leader. Let him or her show you how to play. That makes the child feel good.

Later, suggest new ways of playing that will help the child learn. For example, if your child is playing with one doll, pick up another and start a conversation between the two.

You might find it fun to get down and play with your child, the specialists say. And both of you will learn something new.

Education Status Presentation

GREENVILLE — Janice Faulkner of the East Carolina University English faculty is one of five persons selected to present background papers on public policy issues at a special conference for North Carolina legislators and scholars in Raleigh December 10-11. Her topic is "Education: Review and Reassessment."

Other topics include "Labor and Unionism," "Health Care," "Criminal Justice," and "Growth Policies."

Each topic will be discussed at a session meeting of state legislators and scholars from North Carolina campuses. The background papers will provide historical perspective and factual data on the five policy issues.

The conference is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Human Values at Tanglewood with a grant from the N. C. Humanities Committee.

The twofold purpose of the conference is to assist scholars in understanding problems legislators face when dealing with critical and controversial issues and to enhance legislators' understanding of the

values and perspectives scholars may bring to the making of public policy.

Karate

A Karate and Oriental weapons demonstration will be held at 8 p. m. Wednesday, December 8 at Pamlico Technical Institute. The demonstration is being conducted by Sam Pearson of the School of Martial Arts in New Bern. As an added event, Mr. Pearson will lie on nails and have an assistant break a slab of concrete on his stomach. There is no admission charge for the demonstration and everyone is welcome to attend. Pamlico Technical Institute is located on Highway 306, five miles south of Grantsboro.

Program For Juvenile Approved

Secretary of the Department of Human Resources, Phillip J. Kirk, Jr., has approved 31 community programs across the state for juvenile delinquents and status offenders. The programs selected from 53 applications from counties were reviewed and recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee on Delinquency Prevention and Youth Services and final approval was given by the Secretary or State grants to communities in the amount of \$250,000. The state grants are matched by local funds. The approved programs range from non-residential counseling programs to specialized foster care and group homes.

In approving the community programs, Secretary Kirk said, "The funding of these programs is small, but important first step in a plan will eventually remove from state training schools children who have committed no crimes. It is time we started solving the problems of our children where the problems are—in the home, the school and community."

The Secretary noted that the 31 approved community programs exhausted all of the existing funds earmarked for community services to serve juvenile delinquents, but he pointed out that \$35,000 in additional community funds are included as a top priority item in the Department's expansion

budget request for FY 1977-79. The request will be considered at the upcoming session of the General Assembly.

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