

Perquimans Gardening
By
Jean Winslow



In a small, more secluded area of our back yard, are plants which attract hummingbirds. One of the easiest grown is impatiens. Specialists at State have issued some types that grow well here. These shade-loving plants are most attractive in mass plantings. In our area you can sow some seeds now for late fall bloom, and bring some cuttings inside for winter pot bloom. Catalogues such as Burpee and Park will still ship many seeds, so try your luck with Fantasia, which grows 12 inches tall, and comes in ten bright colors. I put in a new one of the Elfin series, which grows 8 to 10 inches tall. It is orange, and is just getting some bloom on it. There is a larger one called Futura which grows up to a foot tall, but I have never grown it. Impatiens, or sultana, are self branching, and spreads considerably, so should be spaced 18 inches apart. The hummingbird's beak is almost identical to the long extension of the flower which holds nectar. But let's finish with the sultanas. These flowers need moisture and organic matter, such as peat moss, pine bark, or sawdust. They need more fertilizer more than most flowers, so put 8-8-8 in when you plant, and if you have established plants, top dress June 15, then again about August 1.

Back to the hummingbird. The ruby-throated hummingbird, which we have, is only 4 inches long. Both the male and female have a coat of metallic green, and the male has a bright red throat. One of their favorite nesting sites here is the Carolina, or weeping hemlock. Plant one in a thicket away from the house if you live on large acreage or a farm. Mama will come in to feed on impatiens, Virginia Creeper, honeysuckle, columbine, and sweetpeas. But she also has a tongue that can be extended in an instance and capture an insect. A good bird to have around.

Just have to tell you about one more problem in diseases. Powdery mildew is one of the most common diseases of North Carolina landscape plants. It is caused by a fungus. You may have seen it on photinia, crepe myrtle, lilac, euonymus, oaks, roses, sometimes azaleas, rhododendrons, zinnia and plox. The disease generally occurs in shady humidity is relatively high. The characteristic symptom of powdery mildew is a fluffy white to light gray fungus growth on stems, leaves, buds, and



WASHOUT — David Leatherwood inspects cross drain that has washed out during recent heavy rains. (SCS photo)

People in news

Dr. Price Monds has returned to his home in Gainesville, Fla. after spending 2 weeks with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Monds.

Dr. and Mrs. G.R. Tucker Jr. of Henderson were guests of Mr. and Mrs. G.R. Tucker Sr. on Sunday.

Mrs. Maurice Rivet and daughter, Miss Julie Kay Rivet, of New Orleans, La. were weekend guests of Miss Louise Chalk.

Mrs. Harrell Thach spent the weekend at St. Pauls with her parents, Mr. and Mrs Lewis McNeill.

flowers. Infected leaves may get dwarfed, curled, or deformed. It can destroy the blossoms on crepe myrtle. If plants are highly infected, dig it up. Don't pull a botanical "Florence Nightengale" and threaten every other plant in your yard.

Treatment consists of applying Benlate as a foliar spray. Follow the directions. Another fungicide is Karathane. Spray every seven days. Follow directions. For light infections apply sulphur — put some on an old cloth and shake over plants, just like you do Sevin, etc. Now that I think about it, that's a good name for my in color in the winter before I get a little tan — early powdery mildew.

Removal of water from fields is important objective

By **DAVID LEATHERWOOD**
SOIL CONSERV. SERV.

The spring of 1979 has been one of the wettest on record. Many farmers have been unable to plant their crops on time and much of the cropland which was planted has been damaged by water. The effects of all our early rain will be felt right on through the harvest season with reduced yields.

Removal of water from the fields is an important objective. However, if it is done improperly it can create new problems. Few people consider erosion when working up a drainage plan for their crops. Wet weather only accentuates this relative-

ly unnoticed problem. Moving water can and will cause erosion over unprotected soil.

This spring we have experienced increased erosion on much of our cropland. Many of our smaller streams have been muddy for the past two months. This sediment eroding into our streams carries fertilizer and pesticides with it and lowers the streams' quality for most uses. One of the largest contributors of sediment is areas where cross drains run into the drainage ditches. These areas not only contribute sediment, but they pose a risk of damage to equipment when the crops are harvested. Many of these

cross drains have washed out to a depth that they are impassable.

With proper planning, a farmer can eliminate most of the erosion problems on his property.

Metal inlets at cross drains and conservation practices such as minimum tillage, field borders, and crop residue can reduce the loss of soil to erosion.

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ARPDG meeting

The next meeting of the Commission will be held at the ARPDG Office in Hertford on Thursday evening, June 21, 1979, at 7:30 p.m.

The A-95 Clearinghouse Committee will meet at the ARPDG Office one hour prior to the Commission meeting, at 6:30 p.m.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Mr. John Wray, Director of the Office of Water Resources.

A dutch-treat dinner will be served.

John Alphin & son, Gary -Walters, Va.



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But equally important to me is the potential of cattle feed production from our chickens. I'm now working with the county agent here to develop a chicken litter food supplement. The litter contains about 18% protein, and the protein supplement I'm now using costs \$190 per ton. So, based on cost of feed per pound of beef produced, my Perdue houses could be worth an additional \$4800 each. Add that to the value of the actual broiler flocks, then divide all that by the small amount of time it takes to operate the houses, and you've got a payback that's hard to beat.

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