

Tiptoe through your tulips

The following is a list of information you should know concerning September crops and flowers.

•Cure sweet potatoes in a warm, moist place say the experts. A situation in which the temperature is 85 degrees and relative humidity of 90 percent if perfect. You can cure potatoes in five to 10 days this way.



Sweet potatoes are alive and respiring, so open the container every couple of days for ventilation. Cured sweet potatoes should be stored at about 55 degrees.

•Pumpkins lose their shiny look when ready. Those that are destined to be stored should be allowed to stay attached to the vine until the leaves and stems die.

•Butternut squash can be stored for several months, but N.C. State horticulturists warn that acorn squash is good for only a few weeks. When it starts to turn orange it is losing its quality. Squash should be stored on a material like clean dry straw.

•Divide ajuga, phlox, violas, asters, big-leaf daisies.

•Bugs are still out. No walking barefoot through the clover. If a bee does get you, scrape the stinger out instead of trying to grasp it and pull. If an insect buzzes around your head, stay still, and he'll most likely fly away.

Here are some bulbs that may be purchased locally for forcing:

•Narcissus — "Carlton," a yellow bloom of 16-18" in height.

•Narcissus — "Paperwhite," used only for forcing, 14-16" in height.

•Narcissus — "Rosy Sunrise," pinky-peach trumpet with white petals, 16-18" in height. These should be planted three to five in a container, depending on the dimensions of the pot.

•Crocus — "Gypsy Girl," yellow with brown streaks, 3-4 inches.

•Crocus — "Joan d'Arc," and

"Snowstorm," both white.

•Crocus — "Striped Banner," purple and white striped. Plan to put five to seven in a container.

TIP-TOE THROUGH YOUR TULIPS

But first you have to plant those bulbs, you know. It's time to order, and it's important to obtain bulbs that will provide a sequence of bloom. And now — have I got a list for you!

This is basically one I put together last year. I kept a diary of our yard, as usual, and noted blooming times for our area. So let's use it as a reference again this year.

Botanical — These begin as early as February, depending on what kind of winter we're having. Probably most famous is the "Red Emporor," but these are obtainable in most any color. Our "Orange Emporor" was in bloom by March 15.

Early Single — Most of these are smooth-petaled. "Arma" is a bright red tulip with orange fringed petals.

Kaufmannia — These are varicolored with pointed leaves and petals, growing six to nine inches tall. Ours bloomed the first and second week in March last year, a little early, I thought.

Postorianna — Possibly the oldest tulip still grown. Also called Candelstick, these have 12 inch stems and bloom year after year with just a little care.

Triumph — Long lasting, the flowers are double-toned with 16 to 24 inch stems. Triumph "Apricot Beauty" was in full bloom here the third week in March.

Lily-flowered — The long pointed petals look quite elegant on 24 to 26 inch stems. Ours, a yellow variety named "Westpoint," was supposed to bloom in May according to the catalog. It was way early this year.

Darwin — These famous tulips are very showy on 20 to 30 inch stems. "General Eisenhower" is outstanding.

Mendel — The color of the flower changes as it gets older. Stems are 16 inches tall. This is a good tulip to bridge April and May.

Peony, or Late Double — This is worth growing just to observe some of the wierdest color combinations to come out of tulip city. "Nizza," growing on 20 inch stems, may be described as "distinct" with yellow and vivid red-striped petals. I call it wild. Last of April, first of May

bloom.

The rest of this list consists of May-flowering tulips, so it is important to observe the stem length and plant the taller ones in back, obviously.

Greigii — These are distinctive for their mottled leaves and flowers on 12 inch stems.

Bouquet — Four or five blooms appear on each 24 inch stem.

Rembrandt — Grow these for arrangements. Each flower on its 22 inch stem looks as if it were painted by hand in splashy colors.

Orchid — Often two-toned, these rare tulips come in many shades, with very obvious black stamens. They are as tall as the Darwins, 20 to 30 inches.

Parrot — A dramatic entry, 18 to 24 inch stems are topped with flowers that vary in shape and appear ruffly. Use these in an informal setting.

Varidiflora — The green markings on the flowers are unusual. Stems are 18 inches.

Double Parrot — They are a little later in blooming than their single cousins. Park catalog suggested floating a few of these in a crystal bowl. I did. It was very pleasing on a low coffee table.

Get out the old pen and checkbook. You don't want to miss one of nature's most spectacular shows.

Remember to buy all the same color for a specific container; it is far more spectacular than mixing up the colors.

Purchase these now, store in a cool, dark place until about the last of October when we will discuss forcing bulbs.

Local youth in 4-H show

Two local youths participated in the Chowan Fair 4-H Talent Show.

Torrence and Cornelius Mack won fourth place on Tuesday and Torrence won second place on Wednesday night.

Both were finalists on Saturday night.

In other events, Torrence won first place for a decorative party cake and Cornelius won second place for cupcakes.

Why do farmers keep farming

By JOHN SLEDGE

N.C. Farm Bureau Federation Life on the farm hasn't been easy lately. These are tough economic times, and right now we are still uncertain how much of the economic recovery will spill over into agriculture.

It really makes you wonder, why do farmers stay in business? Bill Heffernan, Univesity of Missouri rural sociologist, has discovered one thing: farmers aren't into farming for the money.

In a survey, Heffernan found that income ranks pretty far down the list when you ask farmers what benefits they get from farming. The first

reason they give for farming is that it "provides a sense of accomplishment and a feeling of doing something worthwhile."

Second, in farming you are your own boss. A lot of farmers like that. Income actually ranked seventh out of eight statements listed by farm men and women.

But Heffernan brings up a very good point when he says, "You've got to have your head above water financially before you get the other benefits of farming."

Despite some of the pleasurable aspects of farming, there is a lot of stress on farm families because of the economic climate that exists in agriculture.

What other benefits do farmers say

they derive from farming? They say the farm is a good environment in which to raise children. The farm also gives the family a sense of security in knowing they always have food and a place to live.

To quote another statement, "The work is interesting, stimulating and provides opportunities to make decisions." Another reason for farming is that it "provides opportunity to work outdoors and be close to nature."

The plain fact is that farmers aren't into farming just for the money. They would like to make a good income. We all would. But there are other benefits to farming that keep farmers farming even in tough times.

Memory Lane club minutes

Memory Lane Senior Citizens Club met on Monday, Sept. 19 at the Senior Center with Mrs. Lib Thach, president, presiding. There were 24 members and two guests present.

Darleen Harrell, Nutrition Director of Region R, spoke concerning the program started on Sept. 1 of delivering hot meals to shut-ins and home-bound seniors aged 60 or more.

Minutes of the July meeting were read and approved. There was no meeting in August.

Assistant treasurer Mae McKaye reported an on hand balance of \$18.68.

Card chairman Mattie Matthews listed cards sent out and cards to be sent out.

Members having birthdays in August and September were recognized.

Thach reported that Georgia Leary had asked to be relieved of her position as treasurer. Assistant treasurer McKay will assume that position. Alice Combs was selected as the new assistant treasurer.

Howard Williams, Director of the Recreation Department was introduced to the group. Important dates to remember were presented.

Mrs. Evelyn Cooke, wife of the Rev. Irvin Cooke, pastor of Hertford United Methodist Church, gave a very interesting talk on "Ships" — relation, fellow, disciple, steward, friend and companion — illustrating her talk with paintings.

The closed with the singing of a beautiful hymn.

Scuppernong Grapes U-PICK — PERRY'S FARM 45¢ PER POUND

Open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Closed Sunday.

LOCATION: At Hertford, take Grubb St. Extd. toward Tyner. Go 5 miles, turn right and follow signs.

NOTICE

The Hertford Police Department will hold an auction of the following unclaimed property on Saturday, October 8, 1983 at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot behind the police department. Items may be viewed between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the day of the sale. All items sold as is, cash only, no checks:

- Door Knob & striker set
- Adding Machine
- Lug Wrenches
- B&W Televisions
- Axe
- Hub Caps
- Crow Bar
- Dehumidifiers
- 1 1/2 Ton Car Jack
- Radio Mono
- Typewriter
- Trailer Tire & Rim (7-14.5)
- Assorted Bicycles & Bicycle Frames

Marshall Merritt
Chief of Police

The Safe Roads Act of 1983



This act, effective October 1, 1983, repeals the present laws on drunk driving in North Carolina and replaces them with the single offense of "driving while impaired—DWI."

DWI can be proven in one of two ways:

- By proving the driver's physical or mental faculties are appreciably impaired by alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both; or
- By proving the driver's alcohol concentration (AC) is 0.10 or more at any relevant time after driving.

Plea Bargaining

If a person is charged with DWI, the charge cannot be reduced to a lesser included offense.

Automatic 10-Day Revocation

A driver charged with DWI who refuses to be tested or who has an alcohol concentration of 0.10 faces an automatic and immediate 10-day revocation of his license. He may not obtain a limited driving privilege for this period.

Sentencing Hearing

After a DWI conviction, the trial judge must hold a sentencing hearing to determine punishment. The new law establishes five (5) levels of punishment determined by evidence of grossly aggravating, aggravating, and mitigating factors.

Grossly Aggravating Factors Are:

- Two or more convictions for an impaired driving offense within 7 years;
- A prior conviction for an impaired driving offense within 7 years;
- Driving while license is revoked under an impaired driving revocation;
- Serious injury to another caused by defendant's impaired driving.

Aggravating Factors Are:

- Gross impairment or an alcohol concentration of 0.20 or more;
- Especially reckless driving;
- Negligent driving leading to an accident causing over \$500 damage or personal injury;
- Driving while license revoked;
- Two or more prior convictions of a non-impaired driving offense carrying 3 driver's license points within 5 years, or one or more prior convictions of an impaired driving offense more than 7 years old;
- Speeding to elude arrest;
- Speeding more than 30 mph over the posted limit;
- Passing a stopped school bus;
- Any other aggravating factor.

Mitigating Factors Are:

- Slight impairment, solely from alcohol, with an AC not exceeding 0.11;
- Slight impairment, solely from alcohol, and no chemical test available to the defendant;
- Safe and lawful driving except for impairment of defendant's faculties;
- Safe driving record—no serious traffic violations within 5 years of the offense;
- Impairment primarily from lawfully prescribed drug;
- Voluntary submission for assessment and treatment before trial;
- Any other mitigating factor.

Levels of Punishment

Where grossly aggravating factors are present:

Level 1: If two or more impaired driving offenses within 7 years, or any other two grossly aggravating factors are present, punishment is a mandatory minimum of 14 days and up to 2 years in jail. A fine of up to \$2,000 may be imposed.

Level 2: If one grossly aggravating factor (other than two or more impaired driving offenses within 7 years) is present, punishment is a mandatory minimum of 7 days and up to 1 year in jail. A fine of \$1,000 may be imposed.

Where no grossly aggravating factors are present:

Level 3: If aggravating factors outweigh mitigating factors, punishment is a minimum of 72 hours in jail, or 72 hours of community service, or a 90-day revocation of driving privileges, or any combination of the three. A fine of up to \$500 may be imposed.

Level 4: If neither set of factors outweighs the other, punishment is 48 hours in jail, or 48 hours of community service, or a 60-day revocation of driving privileges, or any combination of the three. A fine of up to \$250 may be imposed.

Level 5: If mitigating factors outweigh aggravating factors, punishment is 24 hours in jail, or 24 hours of community service, or a 30-day loss of driving privileges, or any combination of the three. A fine of up to \$100 may be imposed.

Drinking Age

The law raises the age to buy and possess beer and unfortified wine to 19. The legal age to buy or possess fortified wine or spirituous liquor remains 21.

Youthful Offender

If a provisional licensee (16 or 17) is convicted of DWI, or refuses to submit to chemical analysis, or is caught driving with any amount of alcohol or drugs (excluding prescriptions taken in a lawful amount), his license will be revoked until he is 18, or for 45 days, whichever is longer.

The statute provides a one-year license revocation if:

- an underage person attempts to purchase or purchase an alcoholic beverage.
- an underage person aids or abets another to attempt to purchase or purchase an alcoholic beverage.
- an underage person attempts to purchase, purchase, or possess alcoholic beverages by using or attempting to use a fraudulent driver's license or other I.D., or by lending his driver's license or any other I.D. for that purpose.

Limited Driving Privileges

Limited driving privileges (LDP) after conviction of a DWI offense have been curtailed severely. LDP is only available under non-grossly aggravating punishment levels. In some instances, a person must complete a period of court-ordered non-operation prior to obtaining LDP. The privilege extends only to driving for employment, education, treatment, community service, household maintenance, and emergency health needs.

Roadblocks

Law enforcement agencies may set up roadblocks to check for impaired drivers.

Preventive Detention

Magistrates must order a person charged with DWI and who is dangerously impaired held until the person is no longer impaired or until a responsible, sober adult will take responsibility for him. In no event may he be held longer than 24 hours.

Implied Consent

A person charged with DWI may be asked to submit to a chemical test of his blood or breath. Willful refusal to take the test carries a 12-month license revocation.

Open Container

A driver may not consume any alcoholic beverage while driving.

Forfeiture

Any person convicted of an impaired driving offense while his license is revoked for an earlier impaired driving offense could forfeit his vehicle. The statute protects innocent third parties.

Problem Drinkers

In almost all cases, a person convicted of driving with an AC level of 0.20 or more, or who is arrested for a second or subsequent offense within 5 years, will be required to undergo a substance abuse assessment.

ADETS Revocation

A person assigned to an Alcohol Drug Education Traffic School who willfully fails to complete the program successfully will have his license revoked for 12 months.

Dram Shop

- Negligent sale of beer, wine or liquor to an underage person may subject the seller to civil liability if the minor then consumes the beverage and as a result of consuming that beverage has an accident while impaired. There is a \$500,000 limit on the amount that can be collected, and proof of good practices (such as checking I.D.'s) may help prevent the imposition of liability.
- The ABC Board must suspend the seller's ABC permit until the judgment is paid.
- There is no liability for refusing to sell to or serve a customer who cannot produce a valid I.D.
- A seller may hold a person's I.D. for a reasonable time to check its validity if the seller tells the person why it is being held.