

AGRICULTURE

Weight and moisture important factors when purchasing wood

•Last month of the year: December, Moon of the Long Nights.



BEYOND THE WEEDS
by
Jean Winslow

•This is an excellent time to get soil tests done in preparation for early spring gardens. There are several reasons:

Soil analysis now may point to a need for lime application. It takes several months for lime correction to take effect, and preparation now will benefit your next crop.

In years of low rainfall nitrogen and potash may be retained in the

soil. You may not need to apply as much as in previous years.

Some years bring heavy spring rains. Spreading of lime and other nutrients may possibly be delayed. Do it now.

Gardeners are not as busy as they were. There's time to do a better job of soil preparation.

Merchants aren't as busy now.

They are prepared to spend more time personally blending your fertilizer now than at seed-selling time.

•It is illegal to kill moles with poison in some states, such as North Carolina. You have two choices. Use

a spear-type mole trap available at hardware stores and nurseries. The

other choice is using an insecticide to kill the insects moles eat.

State horticulturists suggest leaving a mole trap in place for two to three days, then move to another runway.

•Buy seasoned hardwood for your fireplace or stove. Wood is usually sold by volume, but the important considerations are weight and moisture.

Keep these figures from North Carolina State for reference.

Weight of Equally Dry Wood per Cubic Feet

Hickory 46	Loblolly Pine 35
White Oak 45	Shortleaf Pine 35
Red Oak 43	Sweetgum 34
Beech 43	Tupelo 34
Sugar Maple 42	Elm 34
Birch 42	Sycamore 34
Ash 41	Virginia Pine 34
Slash Pine 40	Red Cedar 33
Longleaf 35	Yellow Poplar 30
Red Maple 37	White Pine 25

Hey — no fair! You can't build a fire now and just "set thar." Go ahead and finish your Christmas shopping like you promised. Remember last year?

End-of-year financial management strategies

Why not get a step ahead financially — end 1983 and enter the New Year in the black? During December much financial misbehaving goes on — excessive and foolish spending, over-use of credit cards and failure to manage for income tax savings — all of which could enhance ones financial position.

This December concentrate thoughts and actions on "FINANCIAL SECURITY" and then carry those thoughts and actions into the New Year.

•Shape attitudes, goals and behavior to assure financial success.

•Examine and control gift buying and holiday spending practices.

Use credit cards only for "cash credit."



north carolina
**AGRICULTURAL
EXTENSION
SERVICE**

By Paige Underwood

must be paid from next year's income.

Take time to make or select meaningful but low cost gifts that are given in a spirit of love and genuine concern.

Make and give a "creative certificate" or use time and talent for a service that is to be delivered at a future date — for example: spring lawn care, home repair, garden tilling, baby sitting, altering clothes, etc.

3. Use credit cards only for "cash credit." Cash credit is paying the bill

when due, no carry-over of any balance due on which finance charges must be paid. Plan just how much the credit card can be used for cash credit then put it away until next year.

Don't mortgage next year's income with your credit cards. To ease the pain of limiting credit card use to cash credit, think about how much less you are paying for what you buy — 18 percent annual rate.

Delegates to adopt policies at convention

Voting delegates from throughout the state will adopt policies covering a wide range of farm problems during the annual convention of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation in Asheville, December 4-7.

According to Farm Bureau President John Sledge, over 1,100 Farm Bureau members are expected to attend the 48th annual meeting of the organization. Most sessions will be held at the Inn on the Plaza and the Great Smokies Hilton.

Speakers at general sessions of the convention will include: Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.; U. S. Senator Jesse Helms; U. S. Representative I. T. Valentine Jr.; Commissioner James A. Graham, N.C. Department of Agriculture; and Dr. Jack N. Behrman, professor, Graduate School of Business, University of North Carolina.

Sledge will give his annual report to the membership on Tuesday morning, December 6.

Voting delegates, representing all 100 counties, will consider hundreds of policy recommendations submitted by the county Farm Bureaus.

The policies they adopt will set the direction for the state organization in the year ahead.

Delegates will also make final decisions on recommendations concerning national issues that will be submitted to the American Farm Bureau Federation convention, which is set for early January in Orlando, Florida.

The election of officers and directors of the Federation and delegates to the national convention is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, December 6.

The selection of the Farm Bureau's "Outstanding Young Farm Family" of 1983 will highlight the organization's awards presentations. Another honor will go to the winner of the Young Farmer and Rancher "discussion meet."

Awards will also be presented to a number of county Farm Bureaus for their outstanding achievement in various programs.

Registration begins Sunday, December 4, at 1 p.m. at the Inn on the Plaza.

The traditional vesper service will be held Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m.

TO IMPLEMENT THESE IDEAS

1. Shaping attitudes, goals and behavior to assure financial success requires determination and self-discipline to act accordingly. Involve the family — all members who spend money — and get each member committed to using money to get the

most with the least risks.

Reserve a portion of income for the future and plan to live on what remains.

2. Examine and control gift buying and holiday spending practices.

Balance spending with the current income available for spending. Make no bills for holiday spending that

health hints

According to a recent survey, most people think that hypertension can be cured. The fact is hypertension (also known as high blood pressure), cannot be cured, but it can be controlled. People may think it is cured when medication has brought their blood pressure under control. However, management of hypertension must be a lifelong endeavor and when the disease is brought under control, treatment must be continued daily to keep it that way.

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