

Area gardeners can yield money saving produce

•First quarter of the moon comes on August third.



BEYOND THE WEEDS
by Jean Winslow

•Camellia susanquas have set buds for fall. Unruly branches may be trimmed back, but avoid pruning anything else.

•Cease feeding amaryllis, hold back water, and let the bulb rest until early winter.

•Prune candytuft.

•Root English ivy.

•Thin ajuga away from bases of evergreens. This beautiful sprint-flowering ground cover grows rapidly and should be kept in bounds. In the case of shallow-

rooted azaleas, ajuga will compete for moisture. Use an organic mulch instead.

•Find an inconspicuous space in the perennial border for casting seeds of galladias, calendulas and snapdragons.

•Give evergreens their last fertilizing, if you think they need it. These plants send out shoots slowly that must "harden off" before the advent of cold weather or the tips will die from exposure.

•Du Pont has introduced a new permeable landscape fabric that, they claim, promotes healthier plants and reduces routine maintenance. Du Pont Landscape fabric lets water pass through to plant roots while controlling weed growth. Water does not flow off, thus minimizing erosion of gravel or mulch. Chemically inert, the material does not have to be removed to treat plants with liquid herbicide, fertilizers, and

insecticides.

•Question from Elizabeth City: Why did my pickles turn dark? Experts at the N.C. Extension Service say (1) you may be using water with too many minerals; (2) your spices are too finely ground; (3) you used iodized salt; (4) you may have overcooked the produce; and (5) you processed the pickles in iron or metal pots.

•Prepare a bed in the garden for some more fall vegetables. By August 15 you can sow (amount per person per year):

Kale—"Green Curled Scotch," "Siberian," "Vates"—¼ ounce
Head Lettuce—"Great Lakes," "Ithaca"—15 plants
Radishes—"Chery Belle," "Easter Egg"—¼ package
Turnips—"Purple Top With White Globe," "Just Right"—¼ ounce

•Most household plants are taking a break in the back yard. Treat them to a liquid fertilizer

or your very own cow manure tea.

Check roots for crowding. Plants that have outgrown their containers should be repotted with a good commercial soil mixture or a combination of three parts loamy soil, two parts moss, and one part coarse sand. Add one cup superphosphate or bone meal to each bushel of soil.

•Tired okra plants will perk up if you cut the top off and feed with a weak fish emulsion.

•There, there, I know you're hot. Auntie Jean understands hoein' and swetin' in sultry heat ain't the fun of swinging in a hammock drinking mint-flavored iced tea. But look, you are richer by far than that lounge lizard over there under the tree.

Horticulturists at N.C. State say

a 25 by 50 foot garden site in this area can yield 938 pounds of veggies, which grosses almost \$650. Take away from that figure approximate cost of fertilizer, \$4.19; lime, \$1.56; plants, \$18; seeds \$11.98 and insecticides, \$11.98, expenses of \$54.68. That leaves a net value of \$589.74.

Vegetably speaking, that could break down to 88 pounds of tomatoes, 10 pounds okra, 12 pounds lima beans, 68 pounds cucumbers, seven pounds cauliflower, 1.5 pounds brussels sprouts, and 56 pounds of zucchini. That's three-fourths pound of food for each square foot of garden space.

Wait up. You're not that impressed? You headed for the hammock? Hey, that's my iced tea. My hammock, for that matter. Shut up and leave you alone, you say? O.K., O.K. Thanks for the \$589.74.

Newsletter reminds farmers to cover unused ground

(Editor's note: The following article is excerpted from the Perquimans County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service newsletter, prepared by Thomas L. Riddick, County Executive Director.

Reminder on use of land taken out of production under the acreage reduction program.

There must be adequate cover on the land all year to prevent

soil erosion. The following practices may be carried out to control weeds and grasses.

•The land may be mowed at anytime.

•The land can be lightly disked to control weed and grasses only if the slope of the land is two approval before disking.

•Chemicals may be used to control weeds and grasses at anytime as long as the land is not

disked or plowed and left bare.

•Grazing is not permitted during the period of April 1 through September 30.

•Crop reports on summer seed crops

Farm operators are reminded that summer seed crops (milo) should have been reported by

August 1, 1984 in order to get history credit for determining future bases.

Proven yields

Producers who wish to prove their wheat yield are reminded that production records must be submitted to us by November 1,

1984. Proven yields are based on a five year period, 1980 through 1984. Acceptable production evidence may be actual weight or sales documents which must show commodity, weight, date, producer, farm name or number,

cost-sharing must be filed and approved before the work is started.

Grain bin for sale

We are offering for sale by sealed bid a Butler Grain Bin, 27' diameter with a storage capacity of 9,000 bushels, 24" 5-HP single phase fan and a PTO driven 8' 57" uger. The right to accept or reject any bid is reserved for information call us. Bid deadline July 31, 1984.

Farming noted important industry

By JOHN SLEDGE
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation
Farming is still the most important industry in the United States. Although less than three million Americans actually till the soil, another 20 million are employed in jobs created by agriculture.

Farming is big business, worth \$144 billion to our economy last year. One farmer now produces enough food to feed 78 others, including two dozen in other

countries.

People in other countries are major customers of many of our products, such as soybeans, tobacco, rice, cotton, wheat and many more products. In fact, one-fifth of all agricultural goods entering world trade originate in the U.S. Last year we exported \$35 billion worth of agricultural commodities and imported about \$15 billion, resulting in a \$20 billion ag surplus to help cushion our nation's staggering debt

load. Every \$1 billion of farm commodities exported creates 20,000 jobs.

Countries that buy at least \$1 billion in farm goods are: Japan, the Netherlands, Canada, Mexico, South Korea, West Germany, Taiwan and Spain. Our most valuable exports are tobacco, wheat, soybeans, corn and cotton.

In addition to creating jobs necessary to take a harvested crop to the customer's table, farmers help the general economy through their purchases. Farmers use 6.5 million tons of steel, for example, requiring the efforts of 40,000 workers. They buy products containing 360 million pounds of rubber, enough to put tires on seven million automobiles.

In fact, farmers will spend about \$140 billion to produce our food and fiber this year.

Recent rains have produced erosion

By TONY SHORT
USDA Soil Conservation Service

This part of the state has little noticeable erosion, but recent rains have turned up some trouble spots. These spots are almost always where water drops from one level to another, like on a hoe drain that spills over into a ditch. This spillover, whether on a ditch or on a field edge, creates washouts. Some of these spots can get really ugly. However, there are ways to solve these erosion spots.

The best way to correct the problem is to put in a pipe. The pipe absorbs the water's energy down the slope. The highway department uses these on their road construction. Farmers can use them too. The new plastic pipe is a good product. It is light and easy to handle, unlike concrete or metal pipe. Some people are now using these for culverts at farm road crossings.

The size used depends on the amount of water that flows through the pipe. The more water the larger the pipe needed. Most drain outlets could be about 10 to 12 inches big, but for larger drainage areas that wash from fields, the 18 inch size is usually needed.

Many farmers are now trying this method of preventing washouts. Placing old bricks, concrete or rocks in a washout has a short life. The water eventually washes the material away. It does not stop the erosion.

Where an erosion problem exists, cost-sharing is available for pipe installation.

For more information call the Soil Conservation Service Office.

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