

Agriculture

Farmers in the state of North Carolina suffer

Unfortunately for most farmers in this state, this has been a disastrous year for agriculture due to the severe drought. To make matters worse, the disaster comes at a time when the North Carolina agriculture sector is already depressed.

While farmers struggle for their very survival, Americans should be thankful that they have the most effi-



cient farmers in the world producing food and fiber for them. In fact, consumers have enjoyed such a bountiful supply of food at reasonable costs for so long that generally they take it for granted.

Americans continue to spend a far smaller portion of personal income on food than any other people. Compared to 27.5 percent in Great Britain, 62.5 percent in India, and 45 percent in the Soviet Union, Americans

spend on the average only 16 percent of their after-tax income on food.

At the same time, the amount of food dollar that goes to the American farmer continues to decrease. It now stands at 25 cents, down from 27 cents just one year ago. The remaining 75 cents goes to pay the marketing bill.

Consumers should be grateful for the farmers' contribution. At the

same time, they should view with alarm the condition of farmers.

The stability and growth of our agriculture is vital to all Americans as well as farmers. This country cannot prosper without a viable agriculture. There is no other acceptable source of supply for our food and fiber. Therefore, farming is our most basic and vital industry which is essential for the prosperity of all our people.

BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

The following is the schedule for the Perquimans County Bookmobile for Sept. 5, 1986.

Cherrix Day Care, 9:45; Wynne Fork Court, 10:15-10:45; Holiday Island Club House, 11:00-12:30, and Snug Harbor, 1:00-2:00.

Also, George's Store, 2:15-2:45; Kirby Drive, 3:00; Gladys Warren, 3:15 and Gertrude Boyce Drive, 3:30.

Helpful gardening hints

There's a trick to drying zucchini. Martha Neilson of Lance Creek, Wyoming, lets the slices sit on a cookie sheet for 24-36 hours, turning them occasionally. Then she freezes them. The slices keep more body after being taken out of the freezer.

BEYOND THE WEEDS

By JEAN WINSLOW

Take herb cuttings now for potting. Dip some new growth attached to a node on older wood in a rooting hormone and plant in a porous container.

Two recommended soil mixes are 1) two parts compost-rich soil, one part perlite, and one part vermiculite (Rodale Laboratories), and 2) equal parts soil, peat, and sand (Well Sweep Herb Farm).

Use a seaweed foliar spray every two weeks after plants are established. Dissolve 12 ounces of seaweed powder to one gallon of water and apply this (or a commercially bottled concentrate) at a dilution of 1 tablespoon per gallon.

Well Sweep Farm also recommends feeding with fish emulsion at one tablespoon per gallon every two weeks if you harvest them continuously for the kitchen. Ornamentals should be fed once a month.

Powdery mildew is a fluffy white-to-light-gray fungus growing on succulent stems, leaves, buds, and flowers. Some of our favorite border plants suffer from this disfiguring disease: lilac, crepe myrtle, euonymus, leucothoe, phlox, azaleas, zenias, and chrysanthemums. Major infestations occur in shady areas predominately in spring and fall when humidity is high.

Young plants and actively growing shoots are the most easily damaged. Infested leaves are curled, dwarfed, and deformed. Powdery mildew will destroy crepe myrtle flowers and defoliate certain varieties of azaleas and rhododendrons.

Highly susceptible plants such as photinias and euonymus should be replaced with non-susceptible types. Plants that must be maintained may be foliar-treated with an approved fungicide. If you are not sure of a product, consult your nurseryman or extension agent.

Organic Gardening's remedy for powdery mildew is baking soda in a solution of five tablespoons baking soda to one gallon water used in spray form.

One of it's readers found another good use for this solution. He said he tried it on his cedar porch. He sprayed the solution on, let it dry for thirty minutes, and then scrubbed the wood with a plastic brush. It worked—mildew and gray discoloration were gone.

Many amateur gardeners have become interested in tissue culture, or cloning, says HortIdeas Magazine.

If you are a novice and want to experiment, write Carolina Biological Supply Co., 2700 York road, Burlington, N.C. 27215, or Box 187, Gladstone, Oregon 97027 for a free price list and information.



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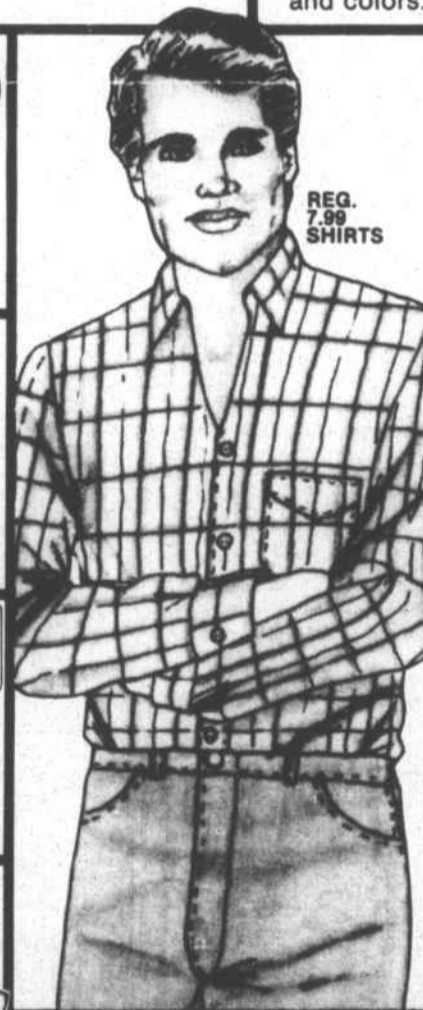
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NEWS 10:00 A.M. MONDAY
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Deadlines are Mondays prior to Thursday Publication.

Prices Good Through This Weekend. Quantities Limited On Some Items. No Sales To Dealers.

PERQUIMANS VILLAGE

9-9 Mon.-Sat. 1-6 Sunday