

Farming news

May work brings summer blooms

-Houseplant stems break off close to the soil when fed continuously with water softened with conditioning salts. Catch rain water, if you can, or use bottled water. Water softeners replace magnesium and calcium salts with sodium ions, which are quite toxic to plants.

-Prune hydrangeas, if they are out of shape or too big. Otherwise, leave them alone.

-Harvest horseradish. Don't worry about having to plant again. The smallest piece of root, broken off and left remaining in the ground, will reproduce. In fact, if you peel horseradish, and plant the peelings—right—more horseradish plants will grow.

-Scatter horseradish leaves in the potato patch to keep beetles under control.

-Transplant amaryllis into the garden. Slide the plant out gently and try not to disturb the root system. Bury the bulbs up to their necks as protection from the sun. Mulch with grass clippings or hay. Stake to hold up floppy leaves. Fertilize once a month with cow manure tea, fish emulsion, or a liquid fertilizer with a high phosphorus content.

-Thin radishes and carrots. Wash the thinnings and use in vegetable salads.

-Caladiums need a lot of water. Check them often for dryness.

-Treat broccoli and cabbage with *Bacillus thuringus* for looper and cabbage worm control.

-Keep potatoes well mulched against sunscald.

BEYOND THE WEEDS

BY JEAN WINSLOW



-Thin fruit on trees, especially plums, which are prone to rampant growth.

-Fertilize strawberries now with cow manure tea. Always wash strawberries first before capping. Berry caps act like bottle caps, and prevent water from getting into the interior, which dilutes the flavor, invites spoilage, and softens the texture.

-Poorly flowering geraniums are not getting enough light. Make sure your plants are receiving 6 to 8 hours of sunlight per day.

-Stake tomatoes and make trellises for runner beans as soon as possible after planting.

-Sidedress cukes, cantaloupes, and watermelons when the vines start to run.

-Do not despair if last year's new peony plants are still not blooming. Peonies can take up to five years to flower. So stick around. Feed them once a year with compost or any complete organic fertilizer. Keep grass away from the crowns, and water during dry times. One day—blooms—I promise.



Assistant Principal Brenda Terranova looks on with students as Pete Kornegay, NC Wildlife Commission, explains the different fish types and methods used in determining their ages.



Students learn about the need for ground cover to prevent erosion from District Conservationist John Myers, District Technician Bob Larsh and Perquimans Conservation supervisors George Winslow and Carroll Williams.



Edenton bee'eeper Samuel Cox explains the bee's ability to search for pollen on nearby trees. His demonstration included the bees in their working process, making honey.



County Extension Agent Paige Underwood presents a check for over \$500 to Mrs. Katherine Biggers of the Perquimans County Library Committee. The extension homemakers clubs raised the funds recently at a community auction and dinner.



Bonnie Strawser, Recreation Planner from the Alligator River Refuge, explains techniques used in capturing animals for release in the refuge. The capture and release of the red wolves is their most recent project.



Mark Williams, District Forest Ranger, explains the duties of a ranger along with some firefighting techniques.

Gypsy moth traps set

Raleigh—The North Carolina Department of Agriculture will be placing pheromone-baited gypsy moth traps in all counties in the state between April and July 1989. This effort is in cooperation with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), North Carolina Forest Service (NCFSS), and USDA Forest Service.

The triangular, fluorescent green or orange traps will be placed at intervals of one trap per four square miles. Areas of high concern will be trapped on a more intensive level, ranging from nine traps per acre to 25 traps per square mile.

In areas with high potential for accidental introduction of the gypsy moth such as campgrounds and recreation areas, priority traps will be placed wherever possible on highway rights of way.

"The gypsy moth trapping system is critical in our efforts to prevent the spread of gypsy moth because it allows us to locate new infestations in the state," said Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham.

The trapping program is financed jointly by NCDA and by USDA, which contributed \$35,000 or approximately 50 percent of the

cost. Area personnel will begin the trapping efforts during the last week of April, with final placement statewide by July. Traps will be monitored throughout the summer with final trap removal by September. At this point, trapping data will be compiled and any new areas of concern will be surveyed to identify any other life stages of the pest.

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Principal Gary Stubbins is joined by students and Perquimans Conservation supervisors George Winslow and Carroll Williams as Sam Cox explains the money-making process.

The conservation pictures above were submitted by Ginger O'Neal, county conservation secretary. They were taken at a conservation field day on the Ed Nixon Farm. Perquimans Middle School students enjoyed the informative exhibits.



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