

### Rot-Resistant Yam In Making

The discovery of high resistance to black rot fungus in certain seedlings of the sweetpotato may mean that plant breeders can develop new commercial varieties of this crop resistant to black rot, according to H. M. Covington, State College Extension horticulturist. Black rot is probably the most destructive disease of sweetpotatoes in this country.

The development of suitable methods and the finding of seedlings with this resistance to fungus is the work of Dr. Pen Ching Cheo, a native of Nanking, China. Dr. Cheo has been studying plant pathology in the United States since 1947. He has been at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., doing research under a grant for study here as a part of a State Department program of aid to scholars.

All commercial varieties of the sweetpotato in this country had been considered susceptible to black rot, and commercial varieties from the seedlings developed in breeding work at the Plant Industry Station had shown no resistance to black rot in tests several years ago. Among these seedlings, Dr. Cheo has found a few with black rot resistance.

Although chemical treatment have some effect in preventing field spread and storage losses from black rot, resistant varieties are of fundamental importance. Through them yields would be increased, and shipping and storage losses reduced, with no added expense for fungicides and their application.

If breeders can combine the black rot resistance of the seedlings with the desirable qualities in present varieties, farmers, shippers, and consumers will have the kind of sweetpotato they have long wished for. No such commercial varieties with satisfactory resistance are yet available.

The amount of water which flows out of the Mediterranean Sea is much less than the amount which flows in because of high evaporation from the surface.

## FORTUNE TELLER

### ORIENT

2 3 4 5 6 7

YOU can have fun figuring out your message from the Orient by using the Scholastic letter puzzle. If the number of letters in your first name is 5 or less, subtract from 7. If more than 5 letters in your first name, subtract from 13. Now take this result and find your key letter in the word ORIENT at the top of this puzzle. Then, starting at the upper left corner, check each one of your large key letters as it appears from left to right. Below the key letters is a code message for you.

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### STATE COLLEGE ANSWERS

#### TIMELY FARM QUESTIONS

QUESTION: When should I start my second bunch of chicks for layers?

ANSWER: Research at N. C. State College's School of Agriculture shows that the best time of year is in October, according to T. B. Morris, extension poultry specialist. "However," Morris points out, "chickens can be started in September, November and December to supplement the production of the March hatched pullets."

October hatched pullets at State College came into production in about 5 1-2 months and averaged over 70 per cent production during their first five

months of lay.

The shell texture and interior quality were better during the summer months than eggs from old hens that had been in production 8 or 10 months. Hatchability of broiler strains was also better in the summer months for the fall-hatched pullets than it was for the old hens, Morris says.

"Poultry growers who have a regular market outlet should seriously consider having two or more broods of chicks each year in order to have a constant supply of eggs to meet market," Morris asserts.

Tsbedcvgbk

### Clapp Says Fire Danger Constant

"Few accidents are more tragic than that of a barn or farm home being reduced to ashes by needless fire," declares Howard Clapp, county agent for the State College Extension Service. "The picture of flames eating through a building and the sound of tumbling framework are grim reminders of a fate that too frequently overtakes the farm family."

Once every fifteen minutes — four times every hour — one hundred times every day — three thousand times every month — forty thousand times every year, fire attacks our farms. Ten farm people every year, die in these fires. Ninety per cent of these fires are due to carelessness — due to a mistaken feeling that this "can't happen to me." With barns and granaries filled with the harvest, no time is better than now to find out how best to prevent fires and to provide all possible protection against them.

The National Safety Council offers the following suggestions which have worked well in the past. These suggestions can be used as a basis for effective protection during the year that lies ahead:

1. Keep the farmstead clean. Good housekeeping in and around all buildings eliminates many fire hazards.
2. Make regular checks on all electrical equipment and circuits.
3. Keep all heating units in good condition. Make sure chimneys and flues are free of cracks.
4. Cure all products well and store them properly. Make regular inspections for odors, smoke, gas, or heat — all of these are warning signals of approaching fire.
5. Provide adequate equipment with which to combat fires. Approved fire extinguishers should be properly located in the home and around the buildings. Make sure they are inspected regularly and that every member of the family knows how to use them.

January 1, 1953: Alexander, 5.1; Burke, 16.8; Catawba, 4.1; Cleveland, 28; Gaston, 3.1; Iredell, 18.9; Lincoln, none; McDowell, none; Polk, none; and Rutherford, none.

North Carolina mountain truck farmers should sow cabbage when the dogwoods bloom.

### GARDEN TIME

#### ROBERT SCHMIDT

##### N. C. STATE COLLEGE

The month of October is a very good time to transplant evergreens of most kinds and especially azaleas and camellias. I have recently seen a number of newspaper advertisements of azalea plants for sale. Many of these are of the indica species (Indian azaleas) such as the well known Formosa and Pride of Mobile varieties. Buyers should be warned that the varieties of the indica species very often freeze back in central and northern North Carolina and are not at all hardy in Western North Carolina. Also, it is usually the case that these plants offered for sale at this time of the year have been grown in States to the south of us and are not fully dormant at the time they are shipped and the first hard frost may damage or kill them. Two years ago hundreds of these plants were purchased and planted in the vicinity of Raleigh and when the late November freeze came practically all of them were killed.

The kurume species (Japanese azaleas) are hardy in piedmont North Carolina and should be generally planted. In the upper Piedmont it might pay to plant only the more hardy deciduous species. Commonly known varieties of Japanese azaleas are Hindogiri, Snow, Pink Pearl, Coral Bells, and Christmas Cheer.

Azaleas have a shallow, fibrous root system. It is very important that they are not planted any deeper than they were before transplanting. That is also true of camellias. They require an acid soil, and most fertilizers used

### George Smith Back From Korean Waters

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., Oct. 5—George Smith, boatswain's mate third class, USN, husband of LeVaughn Smith of route 2, Kings Mountain, N. C., arrived here yesterday aboard the attack cargo ship USS Merrick (AKA97) completing a four month tour of the Korean combat zone.

A unit of the Pacific Fleet Amphibious Force, the Merrick was carrying men of Underwater Demolition Team Five, or better known as the Navy's famous "frogmen". This was the first tour of duty in the Far East for the Merrick.

She was removed from mothballs in San Francisco in March of 1952. The following June

she left the West Coast bound for the Western Pacific. For the past four months the Merrick has been employed in amphibious training exercises and troop movements both in Japanese and Korean waters. Shortly after the "frogmen" disembarked, the Merrick left San Diego and reported to her new homeport at Long Beach.

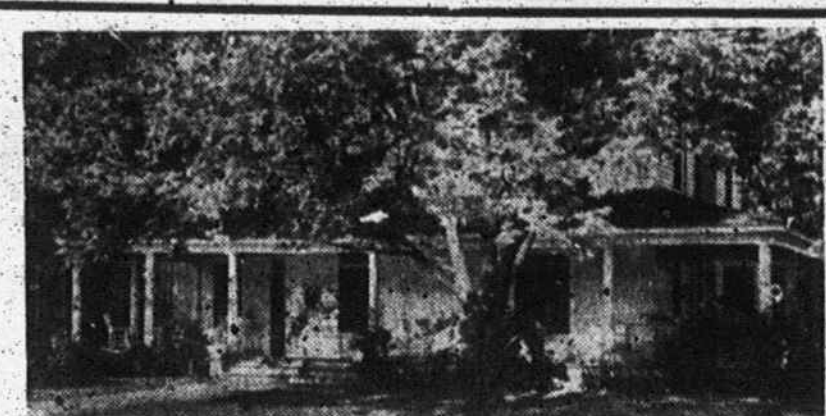
About 12 per cent more fertilizer will be available to farmers next year than was available this year.

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## COLDS

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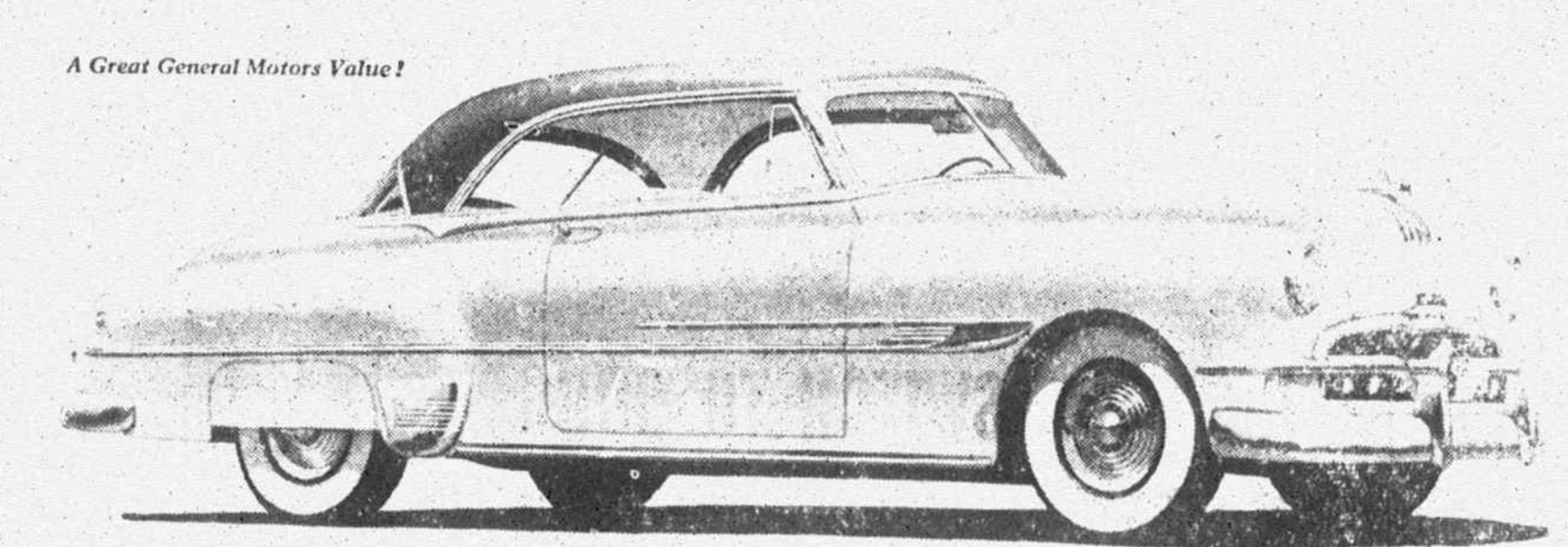
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1952—\$263 Billion

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