



QUESTION: An out-of-State man recently offered to prevent oak blight in my trees at a cost of \$25 per tree. Is this too much to pay?

ANSWER: Presumably, you are referring to "oak wilt." At any rate you should be on guard against transient "tree experts" making such offers, says John L. Gray, in charge of forestry for the State College Extension Service.

Where the firm or individual is not known by the home owner, the owner would do well to check with his local Chamber of Commerce or Better Business Bureau before accepting any offers involving his trees, Gray warns.

There have been several reports of transient "tree experts" operating in the state and offering to spray or fertilize oak trees to prevent attack by "oak blight," for \$25 to \$30 per tree.

Gray points out that at present, oaks infected by oak wilt have been found in Asheville and Waynesville only, in this State. Furthermore, plant pathologists have not determined how this disease spreads for long distances. Therefore, Gray says, until an oak becomes infected, no treatment can be recommended.

Microscopic examination of twigs from suspected trees is the only sure method of determining positively whether an oak is infected with oak wilt.

Gray recalls that last summer an operator was in North Carolina who offered to treat trees so that they would be free from attack from all insects and diseases for at least five years. This man sprayed or painted the trunks of trees with a mixture of oil and creosote. As a result, some thin-barked trees died.

There are reputable tree surgery companies and individuals located in North Carolina and surrounding states who are trained and equipped to render service to tree owners, Gray says, but tree owners should check on persons or companies not known to the tree owner.

Deep Freeze Unit Revolutionizes Life

At Christmas time almost everyone thinks of making presents and giving them to neighbors, friends and relatives, but Fredell County 4-H'er June Morrison has used her frozen foods project not only as a means of supplying her own family with the "basic seven" 365 days a year, but she has also made a practice of giving her frozen produce to neighbors, friends and relatives.

June says that when her family bought their home freezer a whole new way of living started. The Morrises have a locker in Statesville, but the town was 10 miles away and the distance made it inconvenient to take food into the freezer locker very often; so for the sake of convenience they have added a home freezer.

June, who was acclaimed county winner in the 4-H frozen foods project this year, is now a freshman at Erskine College in South Carolina. While still at home and a member of the Celeste Henkle Senior 4-H Club, June and her mother did quite a bit of freezing together — as a matter of fact June says that they froze practically all of their meats, fruits and vegetables.

She said that she and her mother have made a practice of giving "sunshine" gifts of frozen foods to sick people, to old folks and invalids who do not have very much fresh or frozen food. She remarked that they have almost taken frozen food to bereaved families to help with the preparation of meals in time of need.

Nita Orr State College extension specialist in frozen foods, commented that June is one of the 4-H girls who is learning to live the frozen foods way of life and by so doing she has introduced this efficient new way of life to neighbors and friends. By living the frozen foods way June has been able to assure her family of good, nutritious food three times a day throughout the year and yet have plenty of time left over for her major field of interest — religious education.

Here's How to Choose Your Christmas Tree

NEARLY 30,000,000 Christmas trees will be sold in the U. S. this year. Select one which will remain its needles well indoors. A simple treatment will keep the needles from drying out, make the tree less flammable and keep it green longer.

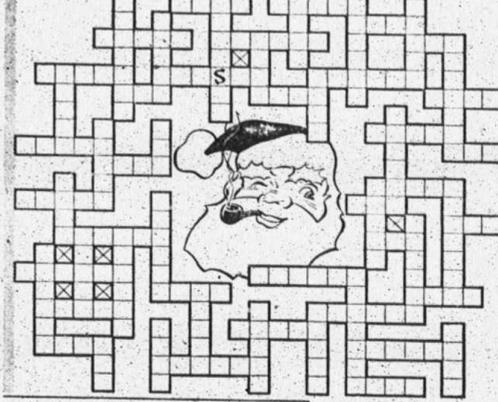
Choosing the tree: Select a balsam or Douglas fir. Their needles will last two or three weeks indoors. A balsam is easily identified by its fragrance, rigid branches and two thick rows of needles which do not stab the hand. Douglas fir, the best of the firs, has long pointed red buds. Other firs have globose buds. All have soft needles. A spruce drops its needles soon after it's placed in a warm room. A Norway spruce, however, makes an ideal community Christmas tree outdoors. A white spruce is better than a Norway spruce for indoor use. Pines recognized by extra-long needles can be used. Hemlocks and junipers are of little value as Christmas trees.

Preventing needle drop: Cut at a slant an inch off the base and set the tree in a bucket of water or wet sand 24 hours before bringing it in the house. Then anchor tree firmly in a holder that contains water or moist sand. Do not place it near a radiator.

Fire precautions: (Internally) — No tree can be made completely flame-proof. Government experts suggest reducing flammability by standing tree in a solution of either ammonium sulfate, ammonium phosphate, calcium chloride or ammonium sulfamate four to six days. First weigh tree and divide by four. That will be number of pounds of material required. To each pound add one and a half pints of water. During treatment, keep tree in cool, dark place. (Externally) — Mix nine parts water glass (soluble sodium silicate) with one part water containing teaspoon of wetting agent (such as solvent soap) per quart. Dip tree into solution or spray it on tree. This will give shiny finish to needles.

Christmas Greens: Measure height of ceiling before buying tree. If branches must be trimmed from tree, use them for door spray, mantel piece or swag for newel post.

Christmas criss-cross



Here is a Christmas puzzle that will be fun for all the family to work. It is simple. Fill the words into the right spaces. One letter "X" is given as a starting point. The completed puzzle is at the lower right. Don't peek!

ANSWER: ALL: SON, EYE, FUN, GAP, EUN, AWAY, DOLL, FACE, GOLD, HALL. LOVE: HOPE, RAFT, BING, SHIP, SNOW, WEEP, TULE, CANDY, CHIEF. CHILD: COMET, CLIMB, GLOBE, HOTEL, NIGHT, WEAPE, TULE, SANTA, SLEEP. SPELL: TRAIN, VISEN, WHITE, ANGLES, CAROLS, DANCE, BAKER, FLOCKS, GOOSE. INFANT: MANAGER, SEASON, SILENT, TWINE, WIGGLE, WOOD, HOLIDAY, FRIGID, PRANCIE, TEENIES.



Our sincere good wishes go out to you. 1952

Central Beauty Shop Bessie Bumgardner Eloise Mabry



The splendid spirit of the season shines in the hearts of men. 1952

Bridges Radio & TV Service Phone 625



A wealth of happiness be yours this Christmas. 1952

Logan Supply Co. Phone 1014



The gift we cherish most is the priceless one of your friendship. 1952

B & B Restaurant and Soda Shop We Will Be Closed Christmas Day

Christmas Eve Memory Check

Did You Remember... to take home a few extra toys? If you are expecting two or three neighborhood small fry to drop in, you can be sure six will show up. And three toys and six children do not enhance "Peace on Earth."

Did You Remember... to check the Christmas tree lights? Not day before yesterday. Not last week. We mean right now. A few stores are still open and you can supply new ones.

Did You Remember... that you told all those people to drop in for refreshment tonight? Better check on the cake, cookies, soft drinks, and other goodies.

Did You Remember... those last minute Christmas cards? If not, you can send telegrams to friends too far away for cards to reach them by December 25. You can even have a messenger call at your house while the guests you invited in for snacks are there, and probably everybody will remember someone far away who should have a Christmas greeting.

Did You Remember... to hang some kind of Christmas decoration outside the house, so passing strangers may enjoy some of the Christmas glow that is in your home and reflect it around your town? Remember, everyone has a part in this Christmas cheer, not just your small circle, and the more cheer you scatter, the more you will gather.

Eradication of pullorum disease is now possible in North Carolina says N. C. State College poultry specialists.

Egg production in November was 4 per cent larger than November of last year, setting a new record for the month.



INFLATION... Santa supervises while one of his helpers inflates a doll. The benevolent old gent looks on with interest. Perhaps he is thinking inflation is not confined to economics.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE Having qualified as administrator for the estate of William L. Blackburn, deceased, all persons having claims against said estate will please file same with the undersigned on or before the 28th day of November, 1953, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 24th day of November, 1952. G. S. Blackburn, Administrator for William L. Blackburn, Estate Grover, N. C. J. R. Davis, Attorney. Nov. 27-Jan 1



We're calling for a New Year that will ring in a new era of peace and prosperity.

A & M FOOD STORES

Advertisement for Hamrick's Corner Cafe. Includes text: 'We're popping up to wish you a joyous Christmas. 1952'. 'Hamrick's Corner Cafe Corner of Pied. & Mtn. St. TELEPHONE 9118'. 'The nation's farm flock totaled 374,332,000 layers in November.'

Advertisement for Rainwater Furniture Company. Includes text: 'Christmas Cheer... 1952'. 'May the great joy of the season find its way into your hearts in large measure.' 'Rainwater Furniture Company'.

Large advertisement for GREETINGS. Includes text: 'GREETINGS'. 'To all our friends and neighbors we give voice to greetings in the true Christmas tradition. With them go our very best wishes for a happy holiday... full of joy and peace, good health and contentment.'

Advertisement for THE KINGS MOUNTAIN DRUG COMPANY. Includes text: 'KINGS MOUNTAIN THE Rexall STORE DRUG COMPANY PHONE 41 & 81 THE CITY'S MODERN STORE'.

Advertisement for Alexander's Appliances & Groceries. Includes text: '...the best one yet... 1952'. 'We're wishing you a bigger, better, and happier New Year for 1953.' 'Alexander's Appliances & Groceries'.