



GARDEN TIME
ROBERT SCHMIDT
N. C. STATE COLLEGE

At this time of the year we receive many complaints that Muscadine and Scuppernon vines do not bear. Gardeners want to know what to do about it. Although not always the case, the usual cause for non-bearing of Muscadines is lack of pollination.

Most Muscadine varieties require pollination by a male vine in order to set fruit. Many of the wild Muscadine vines are males. In the past they have served as pollinators for the vines planted in the back yards and gardens. However, wooded areas and vacant lots have been put in cultivation or used for buildings. Thus the male Muscadines have been destroyed, and now the garden vines are not producing good crops.

I recently saw a good illustration of this. A large Scuppernon vine which formerly produced heavy crops has had only a scattering of grapes on it for the past four or five years. However, some young vines propagated from this one and planted in another garden along with some perfect flowered pollinators are bearing fine crops of fruit. This shows how important pollination is for your Muscadines and Scuppernongs.

During the past few years, sev-

eral perfect flowered varieties of Muscadines have been on the market. These varieties will produce crops without the presence of male vines. They will also take the place of male vines in pollinating other varieties. Since the male vines produce no grapes, it is a distinct advantage to use one of these perfect flowered varieties for pollination.

Why use the old varieties at all? Because some of them are of superior quality. Before long the plant breeders will have for us perfect flowered varieties that are of as high quality as Scuppernon, Hunt, Topsail and others. At present, the best of the perfect flowered varieties are Burgaw, Wallace, and Tarheel.

Corn Planters Given Wide Choice

For the first time in history, North Carolina Seed Corn Producers will have available for the farmer of this state a wide choice in hybrid seed corn for the next planting season. John Rice, director of the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association, says that this choice will vary from very early maturing hybrids through medium season hybrids to the regular late maturing types.

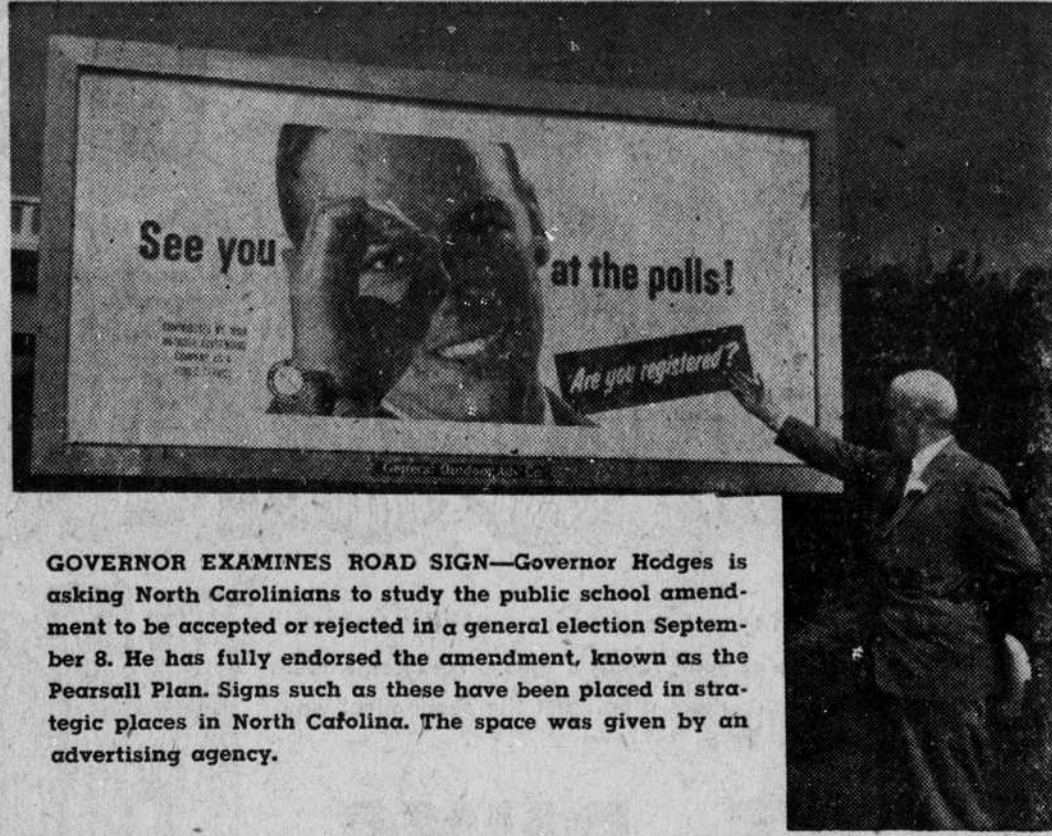
Rice reports that the hybrid seed corn growers of North Carolina have planted only 1,000 less acres of hybrid seed corn than was planted in 1955. He states that the excellent growing conditions throughout the state give prospects for a very high quality seed. This seed will be available next year for planting throughout the southeast.

In their grading operations this year, all North Carolina producers will be using the same size screens for designating medium flats and large flats. Rice believes that this will greatly assist dealers in selling the same size corn for each of the different grades. It will also aid the farmer in having the same planter flats to plant the medium flat and large flat hybrids produced by different growers.

In addition, all North Carolina certified hybrid seed corn will be treated with an approved fungicide. Rice says that this will aid the farmer in securing a good stand.

Of special interest are the two new early maturing hybrids. Both VPI 426 and Ohio C 54 will be available to growers in the commercial corn areas as well as to growers throughout the state who desire a very early maturing corn. Rice indicates that these varieties will mature about the middle to the latter part of August. They both have good grain quality, he adds.

North Carolina's average per acre volume of live sawtimber is 2,327 board feet as compared with 1,835 for the Southern Region and 4,063 for the whole U. S. These board-foot per-acre averages are divided by the Timber Resource Review for softwoods and hardwoods, respectively, as follows: U. S. — 3,218 and 845; Southern Region — 973 and 862; and North Carolina — 1,184 and 1,143.



GOVERNOR EXAMINES ROAD SIGN—Governor Hodges is asking North Carolinians to study the public school amendment to be accepted or rejected in a general election September 8. He has fully endorsed the amendment, known as the Pearsall Plan. Signs such as these have been placed in strategic places in North Carolina. The space was given by an advertising agency.

Mrs. Elaine Queen On Committee

Mrs. Elaine Queen, secretary of the Kings Mountain Merchants association, has been appointed a member of the attendance and publicity committee of the Southern Consumer Credit Clinic. The clinic is holding its eighth annual meeting Wednesday, September 19.

More than 200 credit executives and credit bureau managers from the South will be in attendance.

There will be three speakers in addition to 20 panelists. The speakers are Marion M. Hewell, President, Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan Assn., Greenville, S. C.; John Lander, President, Landers Motors, Atlanta, Ga. and Arthur Jones, Vice-President, American Trust Co., Charlotte, N. C.

The panelists are from the two Carolinas and Virginia. All are experts in their field.

For the second time the Clinic has a medical division. Their discussions will cover the medical problem of credit and collections. Some 200 hospitals clinics and doctors will be represented.

The Clinic will include a morning and afternoon session. Registration fee is \$7.50, which includes Tuesday evening dinner and Wednesday luncheon.

Figs For Preserves Must Be Just Right

Trees will be bearing their abundant crop of juicy figs, so it's time to begin planning how to use them.

Figs are delicious fresh or broiled in syrup for salads, but for year round enjoyment, you can't beat fig preserves. Rose Ellwood Bryan, extension food conservation specialist at State College, says to gather the figs when just ripe; they must not be soft or cracked.

After the figs are gathered, peel carefully, trying not to cut too near the seed. Miss Bryan recommends using one pound of sugar and the juice of one-half lemon to each pound of fruit.

Place the sugar in a preserving kettle with enough water to keep it from sticking. Stir occasionally until it begins to boil. Add the lemon juice, which will prevent crystals from forming. To this, add part of the figs and let them boil until clear and transparent.

Remove the figs from the syrup to a platter, which should be placed in the sun if possible. Add more of the figs to the boiling syrup until all are used. When all of the figs are removed from the syrup, boil the syrup down until thick as honey. Then add the figs which have been sunning or standing and boil for two minutes.

Set the figs and juice aside until next morning, when they may be packed in jars. For packing, Miss Bryan suggests arranging the figs in rows in the jars with stems up, pouring a little syrup in as each row is placed. Use a paddle to remove bubbles. Process the filled jars for 15 minutes at the simmering point.

Spindle-Center Fair Will Open September 10, Runs Entire Week

GASTONIA — Everything is set for the opening of the Spindle-Center Agricultural Fair Sept. 10. It will run a full week.

This makes the fifth year for the fair to be sponsored by the 500-member Gaston County Farm Bureau. It will be the biggest of the five fairs.

Bill Haley and his Comets, world-famed rock and roll band, are featured in the grandstand Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights.

Jack Kockman's Hell Drivers run Monday and Tuesday nights. There will be motorcycle racing Saturday night.

To meet demands of the Bill Haley shows, 3,100 new seats have been added to bring grandstand capacity to 6,500.

Howard Robbins, fair manager, said 60,000 free tickets will be distributed to schools in Gaston and surrounding counties. Tickets will be given to the principals as soon as school opens.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, is Gastonia city schools day.

Wednesday, Sept. 12 is Gaston County schools day.

Thursday, Sept. 13 is reserved for school children of neighboring counties.

Robbins said the fair would have twice as many exhibits this year. There will be 43,000 square feet of exhibits in three flame proof tents.

Main exhibit will be the Atomic Energy Exhibit shipped from Oak

New Sun Ray Uses Sought For Farmers

Hot August temperatures are pretty hard to take at times. And the sun's burning rays can play havoc with man's skin if he's not careful. But there is a ray of hope in all this energy, which we often feel we could do without. That hope is that the sun can be put to work in new ways.

Agricultural scientists have built a solar energy collector which has already been used to supplement electricity in heating a house. It has also been used successfully to help raise the temperature of water in an electric water heater.

Other farm projects of which solar energy might eventually be used include: milk cooling, dairy water heating, hothouse and poultry house air conditioning, vegetable storage conditioning, and grain drying. Used in conjunction with electricity or other power sources, solar energy could materially reduce operation costs.

While practical application of these principles may be some years off, the scientists say they may nevertheless be counted on to perform a great variety of farm tasks in the future.

Ridge, Tenn., and guarded by a 12-man group of military policemen. It is free.

Another good exhibit is the Army's guided missile, the "Nike," sent from Washington, D. C.

Each night 1,000 of fireworks will be exploded in front of the grandstand. On Tuesday night, Robbins said, \$5,000 worth will be set off.

Tuesday night is Farm Bureau Night. Farmers and their families will be guests at a barbecue on the grounds.

Farm Population Holding Its Own

Figures recently released show that the farm population of the United States has been relatively stable during the last three years at about 22 million. According to D. W. Hennessee, marketing specialist at North Carolina State College, this has been the result of the slackening of the movement from farms.

Farm population has declined approximately 2.3 million during the first three years of the 1950's. In April of this year, says Hennessee, total farm population was 22,275,000, according to an estimate prepared cooperatively by the Bureau of Census and the Agricultural Marketing Service. This report was released on July 31.

In April, 1956, farm residents made up 13.3 per cent of the total population of 167,440,000, but in 1950 farm residents made up 16.6 per cent of the total population of 151,132,000.

With the continued growth of the nation's total population, the

proportion of the farm population has continued to decline. Hennessee states that this represents the continuation of a long-time trend.

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