



Farm News

By: Tom Mills
County Extension Agent
for Agriculture

Fertilizing Float Tobacco Plants

Growing tobacco transplants by the Float Production method has developed many questions on how to fertilize growing plants. Since beds vary in water depth, and plants use fertilizer from the water at varying rates, a cookbook recommendation will not work.

Farmers are using a device called the DIST 4 meter to measure fertilizer levels. The DIST 4 meter is a device which measures the electric current which will travel through water. As larger amounts of fertilizer are added to water, the higher the DIST 4 meter will read.

To assist farmers in making a more accurate estimate, U.K. Extension specialists have developed a calibrated chart. Using known amounts of 20-10-20 fertilizer in water, DIST 4 readings are charted for different parts per million nitrogen.

Research results have shown that tobacco transplants grow best at 100 to 150 parts per million Nitrogen. Rates greater than 150 ppm can lead to more disease problems and destruction of plants.

To measure float bed fertilizer levels with a DIST 4 meter, a reading is first taken from the water source that was used to fill bed. Generally, city water will read 3 and some wells or springs may read

higher. The initial DIST 4 water reading is subtracted from the water bed reading. For instance, a 3 reading from water source subtracted from a float bed reading of 9 would equal 6. Looking this up on the chart shows a 100 ppm nitrogen. Generally speaking, for each difference of 3 the nitrogen level increases by 50 ppm.

Keeping the nitrogen level equal throughout the bed is important. When adding fertilizer, care must be taken to distribute fertilizer and not allow this to settle in one corner. A sump pump on one end with a water hose leading to the other end will circulate the water best. However, the next best method would be to dissolve the fertilizer then add the solution to different areas then mix by adding water to these areas.

Caution should be used in purchasing fertilizer. First, the calibration charts are for 20-10-20. Second, DO NOT purchase fertilizer that contains Urea. Ask the fertilizer dealer to show you there is not Urea in their fertilizer. Urea has been shown to develop ammonia gas which will settle on top of trays and kill young plants.

If you have questions on float plant production or would like to borrow the Extension Office vacuum seeders (200 count or 240 count trays), call 256-2403.

A Serious Collector Needs A Plan

By: Hazel Jackson
County Extension Agent for
Family and Consumer Science



Collecting anything from baseball cards to parking meters has become the rage among the nostalgic buff as well as the average worker trying to gain a hedge against inflation. All too often, though, the enthusiastic amateur finds himself a packrat, instead of a serious collector.

The serious collector begins with a plan. Decide on a purpose, a theme or a design to guide the development of your collection. The first step in forming a collection is to decide what to collect. Consider things you like and that might serve a dual purpose, such as furniture or dinnerware. Items should fit your needs, your storage space and your lifestyle. An item doesn't have to be an antique or hard-to-find to be collectible, as the original \$3 Barbie doll that can command hundreds today. For those on a limited budget, the specialist suggests collecting low cost or free items, such as autographs, coins in circulation, or jump rope rhymes. Be leary of items made specifically for collecting. Many items made for collecting are more expensive now and may not go up in value in the future.

The second step is to learn all you can about your chosen item. This is your best defense against fraud. Check the local library for books on collecting or subscribe to a collector's magazine. Stock your own bookshelves with definitive references or join a collector's club that can put you in touch with knowledgeable people nearby. The

internet may or may not be a good resource for information.

Now comes the treasure-hunt. There abounds a wide variety of art and collectibles are either in private hands or already in the channels of the trade, so "second-hand" sources may be a good starting point. Flea markets, garage sales, estate sales, thrift shops and even pawn shops may turn up the chosen collectibles. There abounds a wide variety of shows, fairs and even conventions dedicated to certain fields of collecting.

Stoner or later the collector faces the challenge of keeping his collection under control. Set up a procedure of immediately recording everything about the item at the point of purchase. Use looseleaf pages in a notebook, card files or individual folders to keep information about when the item was made, who made it, what any marks mean, how it is used, the name of the style or design, if it's and original, if it's a complete or part of a set, previous owners, its historical significance, etc.

Many collectors photograph the pieces of their collection as proof in the event of theft, for insurance purposes, as a historical record and to help in the eventual disposition of the item.

For more information on collecting, attend a free class on April 27 at 6:30 p.m., entitled "Antiques & Collectibles." Call the Extension Office at 256-2403 for more information.

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Tobacco Leasing Quotas for the 2000 crop year will be mailed on April 7, 2000. Leasing for the crop year 2000 will be April 10th through July 1st. This includes cross county leasing. This does not allow sale or purchase of tobacco across county lines.

Tobacco Loss Assistance Program Funds

Governor Paul Patton has requested that the United States Department of Agriculture release \$121,645,774 to the Chase Manhattan Bank for distribution to Kentucky tobacco quota holders and growers. The money is Kentucky's share of the Tobacco Loss Assistance Program funded by the Agricultural Appropriations bill passed by the U.S. Congress. It will be shared by tobacco quota holders and growers using the same formula that was used to distribute Phase II payments late last year.

The Kentucky Tobacco Settlement Trust Corporation, the state entity handling Phase II payments, is also

servicing as the point for the distribution of the federal funds. Corporation staff indicated that growers would probably see their payments within the next six to eight weeks. Growers and quota holders who applied for Phase II funds will not have to reapply.

Oilseed Program

On October 22, 1999, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Appropriations Act 2000, authorized the Secretary to use \$475,000,000 of CCC's to make payments to producers who planted an eligible oilseed in 1999. In order to be eligible, a producer must have planted or shared in the production of an eligible oilseed in 1999. Prevented planted oilseed acreage cannot be used to determine 1999 OP eligibility nor can it be used for history or actual yield purposes. 1999 OP payments may be available to producers who planted or shared in the production of the following oilseeds in 1999: soybeans, canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower seed, sunflower seed (oil and confectionary).

OP applications shall be submitted to the county that controls payment limitation for the producer. KCMO determined the "control" county for each producer in December 1999. Sign up for the 1999 OP ends March 31st.

Small Grains

Producers growing small grains (wheat) must report their acreage by May 31, 2000. If crop acreage is not filed timely and producer applies for a Loan Deficiency Payment, then a

charge of \$26.50 will be applied for a late file.

PRP Signup

Eligible farmers whose pastures were damaged by drought in 1999 can receive payments to help them re-establish forage crops. The Pasture Recovery Program is funded at \$40 million. Established pasture is eligible where livestock are normally grazed and that was so damaged by drought that seeding is required to re-establish the forage crop. No assistance is authorized for hayland.

To be eligible for PRP, producers must meet all of the following guidelines: be an owner or operator of eligible land who normally grazes livestock on such land; as owner or operator, be responsible for restoring and maintaining the forage crop on the affected land for the 5-year lifespan of the contract; be approved for payment under 1999 LAMP not have grossed annual income in excess of \$2.5 million; certify that the pasture land was so damaged or destroyed by drought in 1999 that seeding is required to reestablish the forage crop.

There will be two practice voyages, re-seeding with seedbed preparation and no seedbed preparation. The Rockcastle County payment rate of \$44.00/acre was determined by the Farm Service Agency State committee to pay for the cost of seed, seeding and fertilizer, not to exceed \$2500 per person.

Signup for the program will begin March 20 and last until April 14, 2000. Re-seeding conducted before filing an application for PRP assistance will not be eligible for PRP payment.

Two Roses Beauty Salon

McKenzie Court, Cabins 1 & 2
35 Lovell Lane • Mt. Vernon

606-256-1445 1-877-443-7140 (out of town)

Two of Lexington's TOP stylists are now in Mt. Vernon -- Christina Rose Perry and Janet Rose House!!

We attend all workshops and hair shows to keep up-to-date on all the latest styles, cuts and techniques to keep your chemical services looking great!

We work with your natural beauty to help create a look that will compliment you.

If you received a bad cut or perm or color, WE CAN FIX IT....

(Bring in this ad and receive 10% off ANY service or product!)

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For Details, Contact:

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News from State Auditor Ed Hatchett's Office

Hatchett Releases Audit of Rockcastle County Sheriff's Tax Settlement

(Frankfort) State Auditor Ed Hatchett has released his audit of the 1997 tax settlement of Rockcastle County Sheriff Shirley Smith.

The audit contains the following comments and management responses:

- The Sheriff should deposit \$2,082 of personal funds, into his 1997 tax account, in order to eliminate the deficit identified in this audit. Subsequent to the audit comment the Sheriff provided the following management response: "The Sheriff will deposit personal funds to eliminate the deficit."
- The Sheriff should have entered into a written agreement, with the local financial institution, to further protect taxpayer deposits on hand in his official tax account. The agreement should be in accordance with federal law 12 U.S.C.A. § 1823(c). Subsequent to the audit comment the Sheriff provided the following management response: "The Sheriff has entered into a written agreement with the depository institution."

The audit found that the Sheriff's financial statements fairly present the taxes charged, credited and paid in conformity with the prescribed cash basis of accounting.

As Auditor of Public Accounts, Hatchett is responsible for auditing the accounts and financial transactions of Kentucky's county governments and state agencies. State law requires annual audits of sheriffs' tax settlements. Donna Bouvier, Certified Public Accountant, acting under contract to the Auditor's Office, performed this audit.

The Sheriff is responsible for collecting taxes related to real estate, personal property, bank stock, fire protection and public service corporation property on behalf of the state, county, schools and special taxing districts.

Teachers/Preachers Basketball Rematch

April 20, 2000

RCHS Gym • 7 p.m.

Admission \$2

(Concessions Available)

All Proceeds go to Project Graduation 2000



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