

In The Bluegrass

Tobacco blooms in June

By Tom Mills
Co. Ext. Agent for Agriculture/
Natural Resources

Gary Palmer, Extension Tobacco Specialist at the University of Kentucky, reports that tobacco around the State is blooming early with two separate situations. The first is premature bloom with no usable leaves on plants that are induced to bloom. There are many ideas why tobacco might be prone to bloom prematurely. One thought is that the plant is old enough to bloom. For example if it has been in the field system for a long time, it may be time for it to bloom. This is an incorrect assessment of the situation. I like to use the story of Raymond Thompson, "Cold and Wet," to illustrate the problem. He started some tobacco seeds in December as a trial run to the normal seeded season the first year that he experimented with float plants. Raymond called me in May and described the plants as yellowed, and, certainly, old and wondered what would happen if he set these plants. I told him that they would do fine, but asked if he had others that were at the ideal stage to plant and he said yes. I asked him to transplant both sets of plants and to observe the response. He commented later that at bloom stage he could not tell old plants from new plants. When tobacco is transplanted to some extent the clock is reset.

From extensive research by Dr. Kasperbauer in the late 60's and early 70's, we know that light and temperature has an important role in early flowering. When conditions in a plant bed mimic those of fall approaching, plants are programmed to set a floral bud. Cool, overcast weather in April and May certainly meet these conditions and induced plants to bloom early. In Kasperbauer's work he determined that larger plants were more likely to be induced. However, in float systems plants may be fairly uniform in size and could potentially have a higher percentage of plants induced to bloom.

In the past percentages in fields have been low, certainly within the 10% range, with higher percentages seen in dark tobacco types. A few cases of 30 to 40% bloom have been reported where producers want to use seedmen for getting off-types mixed in with regular seeds. This is not the case, although plants do look abnormal due to the floral induction and it effects on leaf development. Plants will be strappy and will fill to produce any normal leaves. Once

plants have been induced to bloom, what can be done to correct the problem? The answer is nothing. There are many "home remedy" type solutions out there. However, most could not correct the problem. A common one is to plow deep and close to the plants, "turn them on the hill". While I can see why people think this works, it does not help. Since usually only a percentage of the plants are induced to bloom, no more plants will bloom after "turning plants on the hill". However, no more would bloom anyway. Producers may think that the bloom is a progressive thing that will continue to develop, but, even prior to bloom, all plants that have been induced to bloom can be easily detected by their strange growth habits.

There are other stories where crops that were showing premature blooms were cut off to one sucker and produced a 3600 lbs/crop. I don't believe that this ever happen either. A producer who did this on a half-damaged crop indicated a more normal response. He recalls a yield of approximately 2100 lbs/crop which is much more believable. Prior research has indicated a 600 to 800 lbs/crop reduction in yield from a sucker crop. Cutting the plants off may not improve those that have an abnormal growth pattern and a cut off plant may not develop a single dominant sucker, but sucker wildly with multiple suckers.

A second pattern that has already developed in some fields, especially in KY14 X L8 is early blooming. These plants will have normal leaf development, but leaf numbers are low. These plants may top out at 14 or fewer leaves and the crop may be extremely irregular in bloom. Cool, wet soils early may have contributed by reducing availability of phosphorus for plant uptake. The result is shortened internodes or distances between leaves. The first several leaves will be clustered at the bottom and will never make it to the barn. This makes the plant appear much shorter and reduces usable leaf numbers. However, cool, overcast conditions in May may have induced blooms earlier than normal, but as drastic as that of premature blooming plants. Topping and suckering will be more difficult in such an irregular crop. Early blooming plants can be topped and treated with a fatty alcohol until the rest of the crop catches up.



Lonnie Anglin, President of the Rockcastle County Farmers Market, is shown in his cabbage patch. Lonnie, along with several local farmers, are providing fresh, locally grown produce throughout this summer. Farmers Market locations can be found at Renfro Valley on Saturdays and Brodhead Airgrounds on Wednesdays from 8:30 until produce is sold out. Through the assistance of the local Health Department and the Department of Agriculture, special WIC coupons have been made available to local families. The Farmers Market WIC coupons may be used at any time during the summer.

Summertime is time for Fruits and Vegetables

By Hazel Jackson
Co. Ext. Agent for Family & Consumer Science

Summertime is a great time for serving fresh fruits and vegetables. Both fruits and vegetables are in season and less expensive to purchase. Fruits and vegetables are loaded with vitamins such as A, E, K, some B vitamins, folate and Vitamin C. Fresh fruits and vegetables are available at the local farmers markets. The Farmers Market is at the Brodhead Fairgrounds on Wednesday mornings and at the Renfro Valley field on Saturday mornings. WIC recipients can use their fresh fruit and vegetables vouchers at the Farmers Market.

Fruit and vegetable salads are an excellent way to use these foods and add interest to a meal. Here is an Oriental Salad recipe that will feed the whole family. Diabetics may use a sugar substitute instead of the sugar in this recipe. If you want like a free leaflet of other fruit and vegetable salads, call the Extension Office at 256-2403.

ORIENTAL SALAD
(16 oz) pkg of pre-cut cold stew 2 packs of RAMEN NOODLES (beef flavor)
1 bunch of green onions
1 head of broccoli
Sunflower seeds, optional
Combine cold stew mix, chopped onions, broccoli, and sunflower seeds. Crush Ramen noodles but don't cook them. Add them to the salad about 10-20 minutes before serving with the dressing.

DRESSING:
Flav or packets from Ramen noodles
1/2 cup sugar
1/3 cup vinegar

2/3 cup vegetable oil
Combine sugar and seasoning packets. Add oil and vinegar. Mix well and stir into salad.

Raffle tickets being sold for vacations

The Kentucky State Police at London want to remind everyone that chances for the Disney Cruise Vacation and the Disney Resort Vacation will continue to be sold until August 14, 2001. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket for \$5.00 each can purchase them from any trooper or at any State Police Post throughout Kentucky. All remaining raffle tickets after August 14th will be taken to the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville and sold, where on August 26, 2001 two winners will be drawn.

The first prize is a 7-night Disney Cruise Line Package and second prize is a 7-night Walt Disney World Resort Package. Each package's estimated value is \$7,000. The vacation must be taken between August 2001 and December 2002. Each ticket purchased allows you one chance on each vacation package.

When you purchase your Disney Vacation ticket you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you made a charitable contribution to Trooper Island, Inc. All proceeds from the sales of these tickets will benefit Trooper Island Camp.

The KSP established Trooper Island Camp in 1965 at Dale Hollow Lake near the Cumberland and Clinch County line. The free camp is for boys and girls ages 10 to 12 that may not have a chance to attend a summer camp. Each year approximately 700 campers participate in athletics, canoeing, archery, fishing, swimming and many other camp activities.

Trooper Island is a nonprofit organization that operates solely on private contributions. For more information you can contact your local state police post.

Non-Insurable Crops Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
Authority for NAP is the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 as amended by the Agricultural Risk Protection Act, 2000.

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to CAT insurance. Status limits NAP to each producer's annual crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available and is produced for food or fiber. Thus, NAP excludes corn and tobacco.

Producers who wish to file an application for coverage are required to pay a \$100 service fee per crop or an amount that is the lesser of \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county, but not to exceed a total of \$900 per producer. The administrative service fee requirement is waived for limited resource producers. A limited resource producer is a producer with either of the following: annual gross income of \$20,000 or less derived from all sources, including income from a spouse or other members of the household, for each of the prior 2 years OR less than 25 acres aggregated for all crops, where a majority of the producer's annual gross income is derived from such farm or farms, but the producer's annual gross income from all farming operations does not exceed \$20,000.

To qualify for assistance under NAP, production losses must be reduced to a natural disaster that causes catastrophic losses. A natural disaster is damaging weather, adverse natural occurrence, or a related condition which must occur before or during harvest.

Eligible producers must file in the FSA administrative office serving the county or counties where their acreage is located no later than the application closing date. For 2001 crops for which the coverage period could normally have begun before or within 60 calendar days after publication of the regulation in Federal Register (FR), a producer must submit within 30 days after the publication of the FR: (1) submit a 2001 crop application and pay the applicable service fee (2) certify the 2000 crop production for the crop if available.

The Deadline Is Almost Here!!

New legislation requires all farms with an effective quota greater than zero to file an initial designation of pounds to a specific warehouse, receiving station or dealer with which they intend to market their tobacco form FSA 808. The initial designation is required for the 2001-2002 marketing season will begin June 1, 2001 and end on August 1, 2001. Farmers are required to inform FSA of the warehouse number where they will market their tobacco. Please note the FSA 808 will indicate where the tobacco will be sold. Therefore, if you decide to market at a warehouse other than the one specified on the marketing card, you must return that card to the FSA office and request another marketing card. Remember, the marketing cards are warehouse specific.

Disaster Leasing Eligibility
Burley tobacco regulations list five eligibility conditions for Burley Tobacco Disaster Lease and Transfer (leases filed after July 1st due to a natural disaster). To be eligible the

transforming farm must have: (1) FSA 578, Crop Acreage Report, on file certifying the planted acreage of tobacco for the current year. If the certification was not filed in a timely manner, a late fee will apply. (2) Planted an acreage sufficient to produce the farm's current effective quota. (3) Made reasonable and customary efforts to produce the effective farm marketing quota. (4) In the current year, expected production that is less than 80 percent of the farm's effective marketing quota because of a natural disaster. (5) Met all price support eligibility requirements.

Please note item 3 reads "Make reasonable and customary efforts to produce the farm marketing quota." The Kentucky State FSA Committee has recommended the following policy disaster lease and transfer:

If the cause of loss is black shank then the County Committee may: (1) Approve the loss if this is the first year for a loss due to black shank (2) If black shank has been a cause of loss in any of the previous 3 years the loss may be approved if evidence is available to satisfy the County Committee that: a. no tobacco has been planted in the field (b) where the loss is claimed during the 3 previous crop years, AND b. proper sanitation, chemicals and appropriate varieties have been used to limit black shank losses.

Producers who suffer a burley tobacco disaster loss must file FSA 574 immediately upon determination by the producer that production has been reduced by more than 20 percent in all cases BEFORE THE CROP IS

HARVESTED FROM THE FIELD.
The producer filing the FSA 574 shall provide deposit to cover the cost of the farm visit. The deposit shall be kept by the County Office until after the farm visit and eligibility is determined. The deposit shall be returned to the producer who is determined eligible.

All farms with losses due to black shank will be a mandatory growing season inspection in the following year.

County Committee Election Coming Soon

Coming August 1, 2001 the local FSA office will begin accepting nominations for the upcoming election to be held December 3, 2001.

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help run FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will have and how they will run. They make FSA agricultural programs fit the needs of local producers.

Nomination forms must be received in the local FSA office by October 26th.

Dates to Remember

• CDP (Crop Disaster Program) began January 18th.

• Crop Reporting: required for ALL Burley tobacco farms by July 16th.

• Designating payment shares on PFC and meeting signature requirements- August 1st.

• Designating Burley Tobacco Warehouse for Marketing: June 1st through August 1st.

• Sign up for the Grazo Out Program through August 31st.

Are You Disabled?

Baker Claim Services Can Help!!

Specializing in Social Security Disability/SSI

Contact Phyllis S. Baker

1950 Sprague Grove
Southeast 14th Place
P.O. Box 948
Birmingham, AL 35203

Phone 859-623-0705

AN OPEN LETTER TO NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS OF ROCKCASTLE COUNTY:

Recently, I was issued a Notice of Violation for violating Kentucky State Laws regarding the improper handling and disposal of household garbage. Other people in our county and across the state have been caught and fined for the illegal dumping of garbage.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

1. First, all waste items including household garbage, household appliances, tires, automobiles, and automobile parts, construction and demolition debris, or any other item you consider to be garbage, must be disposed at a state permitted facility.
2. You cannot bury household garbage - even on your own property. Placing garbage in a sinkhole or throwing it over an embankment is not only illegal but it contaminates our environment and may damage drinking water for you or your neighbors or pollute creeks and rivers.
3. You cannot burn household trash such as plastics and metals.
4. All household garbage must be disposed at a permitted landfill, a garbage transfer station, or picked up by a garbage collection service.
5. You need to sign up for regular garbage collection from a county-licensed hauler. Keep your receipts so you can show proof if your garbage somehow ends up in an illegal dump.

If you are not currently subscribing to a collection service or have any other general questions about proper garbage disposal, you should contact the Rockcastle County Solid Waste Coordinator, Scott Berryman, at (606) 256-5315.

Be aware if you are caught illegally disposing of your garbage, you can be fined from \$100.00 to \$5,000 dollars and be required to clean up the dump site. If you witness illegal dumping, call toll free 1-888-NODUMPS and report it to state officials.

Please join me in creating a clean and healthy environment for Rockcastle County.

Thank you for your help.

Mr. Frankie Woodall

Roundstone School Pre-Registration for New Students

Dates: Tuesday, July 31st - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursday, August 2nd - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You will need to bring the following:

- Physical (must be on Kentucky form)
- Immunization certificate
- Eye examination (only for kindergarten and preschool students - must be from an optometrist or ophthalmologist)
- Copy of birth certificate (must be certified copy from the state - if you do not have a certified copy, you may pick up an application or request one at the school)
- Social Security card

If you have any questions,
please call the school at 256-2235