



Get ready to plant corn...

Farmers will begin planting corn as early as 30 days from now. Corn planting will last around 4 to 5 weeks. Of course there will be corn planted outside that block of time, but for the sake of discussion let's say that we will shoot for planting our corn crop between March 15 and March 30.

We like to plant corn as early

as possible for several reasons, the main one of which is water. Corn plants that emerge around the end of March or the first days of April can normally reach the reproductive "silk and tassel" stage before supplies of soil moisture are depleted. This is most critical for farms without irrigation, but it saves a lot of expense for those who have

irrigation as well.

Another big item supporting the early planting of corn is the avoidance of problems. On the issue of weeds, the fields should preferably be free of weeds when corn plants emerge so that there is no competition. This is the reason we apply burndown and residual herbicides and avoid spring tillage that brings more weed seed to the surface.

A winter weed that has special significance for corn is herbicide resistant ryegrass. This plant not only can compete with corn as other weeds do but it is also "allelopathic" to corn in that it can compete biochemically as well. Ryegrass cannot be tolerated in corn fields since it can cause huge yield loss if the density of the weed is significant.

There are only two "good" ways to get rid of ryegrass. Till-

age is not good in spring since it can cause problems for supporting the equipment required for planting corn. The other is the application of herbicide mixtures containing clethodim. This herbicide will not only control ryegrass and other winter grasses but it will also damage corn if the corn seeds are planted and emerge while the clethodim is active. This herbicide should be applied around five weeks before planting to allow it to dissipate sufficiently to prevent damage to corn.

Other issues include the use of seed treated with an insecticide to prevent or reduce injury from insects, mainly the sugarcane beetle. Seed should also be treated with fungicides to protect the germinating seed from rotting organisms and fungi that destroy the young seedlings.

In nonirrigated fields the planter should be set to deliver a seed about every 6 inches in 38 inch rows for a seeding rate of 27,500 per acre. A similar seeding rate can be achieved in 30 inch rows with a seed every 7.5 inches. Seeding depth should be at least two inches in order for seminal roots to develop under the soil surface on the growing plant. This is critical for moisture uptake and to avoid lodging. In irrigated fields the seeding rate may be increased somewhat, but without irrigation this population has been shown consistently dependable for most varieties. Seed should be spaced as evenly as possible to avoid competition among the plants.

I have not mentioned setup of planters which is critical for correct seed placement, but a comment is that when the seed are placed the slit must be closed well for even emergence and to




Durant native Sterling Starns (pictured center) was sworn in on Wednesday, January 25 as Lexington's new municipal judge, replacing Latrice Westbrooks, who took her new post as Court of Appeals judge on January 3. (Photo by Cary Littlejohn)



Holmes native named Admin. of the Year

Durant native Robyn Suzanne Killebrew, Ph.D., daughter of Doralyn and Jackie Killebrew, of Durant, was recently named Pass Christian School District's Administrator of the Year. Killebrew, principal of Pass Christian High School, was recognized during a school-wide celebration with students, faculty, support staff, and community members in attendance. She was also recognized during the January regular meeting of the Pass Christian School Board and presented with a framed certificate.

Killebrew also earned her doctoral degree in educational administration through the University of Southern Mississippi. Killebrew plans to continue her challenging work as a high school administrator while giving consideration to one day teaching at the college level.



You're Invited!

A Thank You Reception honoring the Dillons for 40 years of service in Holmes County will be held at Peoples Drug Store on Wednesday, February 8 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.



A Tribute to our Grandmother, Mrs. Lenzell Story Nelson





To our shining STAR, You were an example of what a mother/grandmother should be, God fearing, loving, compassionate, beautiful, determined, honest, and intelligent. You had more courage and strength than anyone we knew. The love you gave us was unique and no one will ever accept how much you truly loved us. We are thankful that you introduced us to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and taught us the right way, now all of your teaching lives within us. Thanks for honoring Annie Hughes (Big Momma) wish to raise up her great-grand daughter Genice "Niesy" Hughes from age 6 years old. You did a magnificent job raising your son, Marvin Nelson's daughter and granddaughters. Your spirit, strength, love, wisdom, and beauty lives on in each one of us; you were a special woman of God, a loving and forgiving Mother/Grandmother; you may have passed on, but your memories and teachings will always live on in our hearts. Thank you for your sacrifices, your caring heart your love, and your concern for us. We appreciate everything that you have done in our lives. Rest in Peace Ma, Granny, pretty lady, and our own Momma Nelson, we will never forget you and will always love you in our hearts forever and ever, until we meet again.

Love Always,
Niesy, Trice, Nikki, Jessica, Dallas Grace, and Josie Mikalei'

WEST REPORT

by West Civic Club

On Wednesday ladies from West gathered at the home of Lynn Hathcock to give a surprise birthday luncheon for Carol Black. There were several ladies present. Thanks to all of you ladies who helped prepare food and all of the other items necessary to put an event of this sort together. It was greatly appreciated. The food was delicious.

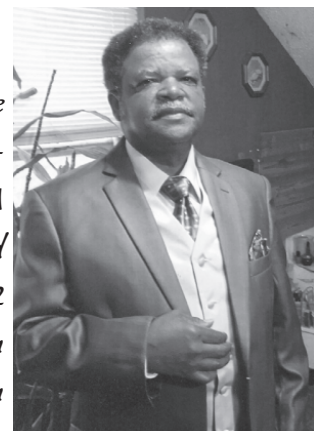
Signs of spring returning are becoming more obvious everyday. The robins are back, daffodils, flowering quince and tulip trees are blooming. I am sure there are also other signs and we will see more of them as we watch everyday.

My suggestion is that soil temperature should be above 65 at 2 inch depth, with a good forecast. The critical time is during water absorption and germination. If seed absorb cold water you may be in for problems. Call if we can help with any of this. Thanks for your time.

Congratulations...

...to Pastor Charles Jefferson on his retirement from the MS Forestry Commission, after 35 years. A celebration will be held on Sunday, February 12 at Greater St. Anderson C.O.G.I.C., Hwy. 51 S. in Durant at 2 p.m., along with the pastor and wife appreciation service. The guest speaker will be Elder William Dean. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

For more information call 662-614-9555.



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