

S Y N O P S I S

Investigations into the time of planting and varieties of tobacco under Trinidad conditions were started by reviewing the literature on the subject, which disclosed that in the tropics tobacco was normally grown in the wet season and harvested in the dry season, that pests and diseases were trouble some, that Virginia flue-cured tobacco was required in Trinidad, and that Bonanza, Delcrest, Gold Dollar, Harrison Special, Kentucky One Sucker and Yellow Mammoth were suitable varieties for trial.

Since irrigation was possible experiments were undertaken to see if tobacco, grown in the dry season, would escape pests and diseases and would produce tobacco that could be flue-cured. Seed of all six varieties was sown on Oct. 14th., Nov. 25th., and Jan. 14th., to measure the effect of season. There was no flue-curing barn, so the tobacco was air-cured, and samples were sent to the Tobacco Leaf Development Co. (Jamaica) Ltd., for reports on quality, assuming that they would be flue-cured in future.

It was found that the tobacco was remarkably free from pests and diseases; that cultivation costs became cheaper the later it was grown in the dry season, but that the coming of the rains made a late sown crop difficult to air-cure. If air-cured, tobacco should be sown on or about Oct. 28th., but if flue-cured, sowing on or about Dec. 26th., should enable a crop to be harvested and cured without damage. It was the opinion of the company that if it had been flue-cured, Gold Dollar would have produced the best quality tobacco, followed by Bonanza and Yellow Mammoth.