

IMPERIAL LEAF TOBACCO COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED
LA COMPAGNIE DE TABAC EN FEUILLES IMPERIAL DU CANADA LIMITEE
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April 23, 1979

Mr. J. Raytrowsky
Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers'
Marketing Board
P.O. Box 70
Tillsonburg, Ontario
N4G 4H4

Dear Sir:

As you know, during the past season we arranged to have three growers produce a portion of their crops (about 5 acres each) using cultural practices intended to produce tobacco giving more and better "flavour characteristics" than generally obtained from Ontario tobacco, hopefully in the direction of U.S. tobacco.

In addition to flavour, we were also striving for a higher alkaloid level.

In consideration of climate, it was felt that the best location for achieving the objectives was the Leamington area and two plots were grown there on the farms of Ernest Duckett and Joe Bradley.

For the purpose of comparison, the third plot was located in the Union area on the farm of Otto Schneider, a potentially higher volume growing area which, although not as warm, also provided a longer than average growing season.

The cultural treatments applied to the experimental plots were by no means extremely different from well known, good cultural practice.

- Fertilization was the same as applied to the regular crop.
- The plots were planted about mid-way through the planting period.
- Plant populations were: Schneider - 5091 (6223 regular crop)
Duckett - 5026 (5940 regular crop)
Bradley - 5026 (5940 regular crop)
- The variety was the same as the regular crop; V-115 in all cases.
- Neither the crop nor plot on the Schneider farm was irrigated. The Duckett and Bradley plots were irrigated twice due to drought, the same as their regular crops.
- The plots on all farms were topped a few days earlier and two to three leaves lower than the regular crops.
- In general, the primings were harvested about one priming behind the regular crop. The tips from the plots were the last to be harvested on each farm, but were taken immediately following the last tobacco harvested of the regular crop. The Duckett and Bradley plots were machine harvested with the exception of tips; the Schneider crop was all hand primed.
- The plots were cured in the same manner as the regular crops.

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Mr. T. Kaytrowsky
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It should be kept in mind while perusing the following data, that the Bradley crop was quite severely damaged by hail and the Schneider experimental plot suffered some loss of tip leaves just prior to harvest due to wind and hail, while only a small portion of the regular crop was similarly affected. Also, the lower sand leaves of the Duckett crop and plot and all the sand leaves of the Bradley crop were not harvested as a result of the use of a mechanical harvester and in addition, hail damage in the case of the Bradley crop.

Yield Per Acre (Pounds)

	<u>Plot</u>	<u>Regular Crop</u>
Bradley	1190	1034
Duckett	2364	2246
Schneider	2346	2555

Alkaloid Averages of the Experimental Plots

	<u>Total Alkaloids</u>	<u>Reducing Sugars</u>
Bradley	3.56%	20.9%
Duckett	3.17%	18.6%
Schneider	3.32%	12.2%

The average alkaloid level of the 1976-78 Ontario crops is about 2.3% and the reducing sugars, about 17%.

Actual averages for alkaloids and sugars from the regular crops on the test farms are not known, however, small samples from certain kilns indicate that these farms produced crops of above average alkaloid level.

Leaf Quality

Compared to the average of the Ontario crop, the experimental plots were harvested much riper, as illustrated below:

PERCENT BY STALK POSITION AND MATURITY GROUPS

	<u>% Mature Unblemished</u>	<u>% Medium-Mature Unblemished</u>	<u>% Trashy To Course</u>	<u>% Green</u>	<u>% Very Trashy to Crude</u>	<u>Total %</u>
(Experimental Plots in Brackets)						
Lugs	1.2 (5.9)	2.3	4.8 (3.9)	0.1 (0.2)	0.7	9.1 (10.0)
Cutters	5.6 (11.2)	4.7	6.8 (2.4)	0.4 (0.3)	0.1	17.6 (13.9)
Cutter/Leaf	10.7 (21.2)	4.8	3.1 (0.6)	1.1 (0.2)		19.7 (22.0)
Leaf	9.7 (18.0)	17.5 (0.2)		3.3		30.5 (18.2)
Tips	5.6 (31.2)	13.4	2.1 (2.1)	1.3 (0.3)	0.7	23.1 (33.6)
TOTAL	32.8 (87.5)	42.7 (0.2)	16.8 (9.0)	6.2 (1.0)	1.5	100.0 (97.7)

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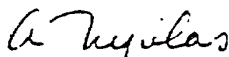
Smoking Evaluation

Cigarettes made from the experimental tobacco were smoked by Imperial personnel, who found them to have a high level and desirable taste and to smoke smoothly, considering the high alkaloid level in the tobacco.

In summary, we found the tobacco produced through this experiment to be a very desirable kind in relation to the average of Ontario tobacco, a kind that has been very much in demand for several years and which will likely continue to be sought after by manufacturers.

With this in mind, we believe that further experimentation is warranted and we wish to discuss this with you in the near future.

Yours truly,



A. Nyilas
Manager, Domestic Accounts

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Encl.

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