IN 1939, studies were begun to determine whether it is possible to produce oriental types of tobacco in the Southeastern United States. As an outcome such tobaccos are now being grown successfully, although in limited volume only, in certain parts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. But because the soil-borne fungus causing black shank, in recent years, has become widely dispersed in parts of these states in which flue-cured tobacco is a major crop, it became imperative to try to develop oriental types having tolerance to this pathogen.

In preliminary trials, made by planting certain oriental kinds in black shank infested fields, it was found that none of these possesses any appreciable tolerance to the black shank pathogen. It may be pointed out, also, that apparently no attempts have been made in the eastern Mediterranean countries, where oriental tobaccos are commonly grown, to develop varieties tolerant to this organism, even though black shank has occurred there to a limited extent for years, especially in Bulgaria and Romania. For these reasons, in 1949, the writer initiated experiments directed toward the development of tolerance to the black shank fungus among oriental types of tobacco.

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Notes