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Expansion of Broccoli Crop Discouraged

(Continued from page 46.)

for Douglas county based upon the economic status of fruit production not only here but elsewhere. It has followed in general the recommendations of the state agricultural economic conference held at Corvallis last year, with such modifications as were necessitated by local conditions.

Great Increase in Production

Commercial fruit production in the United States has increased materially during recent years. For example, in 1917, the total carlot shipment of all fruit was 375,331 cars. This is an increase of more than 61 per cent in seven years. Indications are that this tonnage will increase considerably beyond these figures during the next few years, when the present acreage of such fruits as the orange, the fig, the date, the prune and the pear are in full bearing.

National Requirements

In this connection it is well to take into account the fruit requirements of the American people. How much more fruit can they be expected to consume at living prices to the producer? This question cannot be fully answered at this time, but indications are that the total consumption of fruit in the United States will not be materially increased, except when brought about by increases in population. According to the estimates of dietitians, an adequate fruit diet for the present American population would be about 340,740,000 bushels. Actual production in 1922 was 322,318,400 bushels or 97 1/2 per cent of an adequate diet.

Horticulture in Douglas County

Present indications are that fruit growing is destined to continue as a major venture in Douglas county. Experience has shown that soil and climatic factors here are well adapted to the culture of several horticultural crops, and to make the best of its opportunities, Douglas county should lend its efforts to the development of several phases of horticulture.

Experience has also shown that the matter of yields and quality here is dependent upon the proper selection of sites and soils for each particular fruit. This being a mountainous district air and water drainage play an important part in the successful culture of fruit plants. No one, therefore, should attempt fruit production here without a thorough investigation of these factors. The matter of varieties should also receive careful consideration. Success or failure is often a matter of varieties. Fruit growing as practiced today is a highly specialized business. At best it requires one's entire time and best attention if it is to be successful. Prospective fruit growers

should bear this in mind.

Apple Recommendations

It is generally agreed that an average production of the present apple acreage of the United States is sufficient to meet the demands of both the national and export markets. For the present, therefore, planting of apple trees seems justifiable only where unusual advantages are enjoyed. For the grower who has his orchard in a desirable location, who has the proper varieties, who obtains large yields of quality fruit, and who is not too seriously handicapped by excessive production costs, fair profits over a period of years may reasonably be expected. On the other hand, apple orchards that are permanently injured by cold, drought or disease, that are planted in poor locations, or that are of the wrong varieties, will never be money makers and should be eliminated. It is doubtful whether orchards that produce on the average, less than 200 packed boxes per acre can be made to pay. The varieties that appear to be the most successful for Douglas county are Spitzenberg, Yellow Newtown, Orley and Delicious. Gravenstein, especially the red strain of this variety, appears to have future market possibilities.

Pear Production

Figures show that during the past few years the pear has been extensively planted in the Pacific coast states. General pear planting throughout the northwest does not seem advisable at this time. It appears, however, that Douglas county is justified in a moderate increase of its pear acreage so that better market facilities might be developed. The varieties which have done best here up to the present time are Bartlett, Bosc and Winter Nellis. Comice and Anjou are excellent varieties but are very slow in coming into bearing. In cases where growers have trees of these varieties that are 12 or 14 years of age it appears advisable that these be kept.

Nut Production

The acreage of nut trees in the United States is rapidly increasing. California now has 106,000 acres of walnuts and is still planting at the rate of 5000 acres each year. California, in addition, has 90,000 acres of almonds, which for the most part, are just coming into bearing. About 250,000 acres of pecans have recently been planted in the southern states, and from 20,000 to 25,000 acres are still being planted each year. The United States now imports 32,000,000 pounds of filberts which sell on our wholesale markets at prices ranging from 8 to 12 cents per pound.

In spite of this, however, Douglas county is probably justified in a moderate increase of its walnut plantings. The quality of walnuts produced here is exceptionally high and better market facilities could be developed if the acreage was larger. The Franquette variety has thus far proved to be the best sort

for this region.

The filbert industry is still in the experimental stage here but holds some promise for the future.

Peaches

Peaches for Douglas county are recommended for local consumption only. It now appears that a few more peaches could be marketed to advantage. The following varieties have proven satisfactory here: Arp Beauty, Champion, Early Crawford, Early Elberta, J. H. Hale and Muir. Among the clingstone varieties Orange and Lemon clings appear to be the best.

Cherries

Sweet cherries as a whole do well in Douglas county and indications are that some increase in the acreage of this fruit is justified, provided that the Monila blight can be controlled and that the pollination problem can be worked out. This committee requests that the Oregon experiment station take up the pollination problem in this county.

Royal Anne, Lambert and Bing with a proven Black Republican as a pollinator appear to be the best varieties at this time.

Sour cherries should be planted only when a market for a period of years is assured. The eastern states in general are heavy producers of these cherries, which for the most part are of good quality and which would offer serious competition to the western grown product.

Small Fruits

Evergreen blackberries, Cuthbert red raspberry, certain varieties of black raspberries and strawberries are adapted to Douglas county. Prospects are that a market for these fruits can be developed whether through local canneries or through outside agencies, provided that sufficient tonnage, and co-operation could be obtained, and provided that the matter of labor can be arranged.

Need For Irrigation

It has been a common experience in fruit districts that with advancing age trees require increasing amounts of moisture to properly mature a crop of fruit. During recent seasons this has become apparent in the orchards of Douglas county, and there is but little doubt that many of the orchards of the county would be benefited by irrigation. A greater tonnage of quality fruit would undoubtedly result from this practice.

Sale of Discarded Fruit

Attention is here called to the fact that fruit from neglected orchards frequently finds its way into the markets of this county. Such fruit is not only a disgrace to Douglas county horticulture, but offers illegitimate competition to the product that has been properly grown. This committee, therefore, offers the following resolution.

Whereas the fruit offered for sale in the markets of Douglas county is often diseased and of inferior quality, and

Whereas this fruit reflects upon

the fruit industry of this county, it is resolved, that this committee recommends that the laws relating to the sale of such fruit be rigidly enforced, after the present season.

A. H. MARSH, Chairman.

Fruit Canning Industry Grows

The canning industry in Douglas county covers not only the handling of fruits and vegetables, but also of salmon, there being two plants devoted to the canning of fruit and vegetables, and four to the preparation of salmon for the plants at Reedsport, and two at Gardiner on Winchester bay at the mouth of the Umpqua river in the western part of the county. Some of the salmon pack goes out under labels of other packing plants in the state, but an effort is being made to have the packers use a label that will advertise the Umpqua valley and Douglas county.

It is a recognized fact that the quality of the fruit grown in the Umpqua valley of Douglas county is unequalled anywhere, and its desirability for commercial canning purposes is making the canning industry an important factor in this county.

The two fruit and vegetable canneries in this county are the Umpqua Valley Canning Company, located at Roseburg, and the Norton cannery at Sutherlin. The Umpqua Valley Canning Co.'s plant is now operated approximately nine months of the year, commencing in March and April with the canning of broccoli, and continuing throughout the remainder of the year on berries, cherries, pears, prunes and apples. This not only furnishes the grower with a market for a considerable amount of fruit, but also creates a payroll of no small figure. The canned goods packed by this plant are well and favorably known and find ready sale in both the domestic and foreign markets. This cannery has recently been enlarged by the building of a modern concrete cannery building and is now in position to handle practically all of the products offered for canning.

The Norton cannery at Sutherlin was recently moved from Drain, and is being operated by Frank J. Norton. Blackberries, pears, prunes and apples were handled this year by the Sutherlin cannery, but another year other products will also be handled.

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