

Leftover Garden Seeds No Use To Growers Without Germination Test, Specialist Says

Home gardeners were given information this week about leftover seeds.

Oregon State College seed certification specialist Harold Fennell said use of last year's seeds "is false economy" unless they (seeds) first pass germination tests.

He said seed kept in a humid, hot place last summer isn't "likely" to germinate well this spring. On the other hand, a cool, dry storage is "ideal" for small lots, Fennell said it helps seed retain its vigor.

Onion Seeds "Poor Keepers"

Some kinds of seed keep better than others, Fennell added. Bean, beet, and tomato seed, for example, usually keep better than celery and lettuce. Onion seeds are poor keepers. In general, said the specialist, it will pay the home gardener to buy new seed if he doesn't have much left over.

A germination test is the only sure way to know if last year's seed is worth planting, Fennell advised.

A simple home test is to fold a paper towel into several thicknesses, put it in a saucer, moisten it, and place a few seeds between the folds. The towel should not be kept so moist that water stands in the saucer.

Avoid Direct Sunlight

Set the saucer in a north window, if possible, to avoid direct sunlight that might dry out the towel and at the germination process. Such a location will still provide enough diffused light for germination.

Seed sprouting time varies with kinds of seeds. Some seeds will sprout in less than a week; others may require as much as two weeks. The specialist said healthy sprouts show both roots and leaf shoots. If half the test seeds germinate well, plant the seed in the garden twice as thick as recommended for new seed.

Where gardeners have large quantities of leftover seed, Fennell suggested they send samples to the Oregon State College seed testing laboratory which provides skilled service for a small fee.

Check Sprays

Leftover garden sprays and dusts, on the other hand, should be effective for use this year if they have been kept dry and in tight containers, OSC entomologist Robert Evers said. Rotenone insecticide may have lost its potency, however, if exposed too long to sunlight.

Carry-over garden fertilizer supplies may be used satisfactorily unless excessive moisture has caked them too badly.

Beekeepers Late In Registering

About 2000 Oregon beekeepers, previously registered under the state apiculture law, have received application blanks for renewal of their annual registration.

These returns were due on April 1, but at that date only about one-fourth of the beekeepers had submitted their renewal fees, reports the state department of agriculture. Beekeepers pay \$1 per applicant plus 15 cents per colony over six, with fees going to support inspections for bee diseases, particularly American foulbrood.

Bee owners are reminded that bees moved anywhere in Oregon must be reported in writing to the department within five days after they are moved; no advance moving permit is necessary.

License Required For Potted Plant Sales

Grocery stores, dime stores and other retailers selling potted plants and other nursery stock, except cut flowers and certain annual flowering plants and cut greenery, need a state nursery license, according to the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

About 50 annual flowering plants are exempt from the license provisions, which means dealers in only cut flowers and these exempt flowering plants do not need to pay a license fee. A complete list of the exempted plants and cut greenery is available from the department's division of plant industry. The nursery law does not apply to sale of annual vegetable plants.

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Label is Key to Seed Buying



With spring planting season at hand, the state department of agriculture offers these two examples of actual cases to show seed buyers it's the label on the bag, not the price on the tag, that really tells the value. The four-bag lot at left contains 100 pounds of seed; a little over one-third was pure seed which germinated only 62 percent and the rest was mostly screenings and weed seeds. The buyer wasn't worried that it took four bags to make a hundred pounds or that no label showed nature of contents. The lot at right carried an accurate label; on the basis of pure seed and germination it was a much better buy. Besides, it didn't contain screenings or weed seed.

Agriculture Department Urges Growers To Read Seed Labels

It's the label tag, not the price tag, that really counts when you buy seed, and counts in the pocketbook, too! One bag of seed, weight 100 pounds and price \$12, may cost the grower several times the price of another 100 pounds of the same seed variety at the same price.

If that sounds crazy, look at a few cases from the seed inspection and testing files of the state department of agriculture.

Take the reports on two 100-pound lots of perennial ryegrass (though one was labeled Alta fescue and English ryegrass). One of these was labeled 99.68 per cent pure seed and 97 per cent germination. That's what it proved to be.

Incorrectly Labeled

The other, incorrectly labeled as to variety, had no label showing pure seed and germination — but the state seed laboratory at Corvallis tested it and reported 34.85 per cent ryegrass seed, 33.54 per cent inert matter, 11.25 per cent weed seed, 0.36 per cent other crop seed, and 62 per cent germination on the ryegrass.

Look again at the 34.85 per cent ryegrass seed and 62 per cent germination on that second lot. A little figuring will show the good seed here actually cost the farmer 55.5 cents per pound, though he thought he was paying only 12 cents. (Besides that, the buyer got a headache that may last a lot longer.) In the case of the first lot, figured on pure seed and germination basis, the seed cost 12.4 cents per pound.

Farmers Warned

That's what prompts the department of agriculture to warn farmers to request a full label, not just the name of the seed, when they buy.

The poor seed "case history" he reported is one of 11 similar findings in samplings made last year on seeds offered to the public by one farmer. None was labeled with anything except name of the seed, and sometimes the seed in the bag wasn't that variety at all. One lot labeled mosaic red top contained 10.28 per cent velvet grass seed, 10.28 per cent perennial ryegrass and over 26 per cent weed seed. Other lots contained 24, 49, 71.73, 81, 88, and 90 per cent inert matter. The lot with 88 per cent inert matter showed a germination test of 20 per cent on pure seed present.

Noxious weed seeds were found in two of those lots; weed seeds found in other lots were not noxious.

This case is horrible example No. 1 of the 1954 seed inspection work. It is cited at the beginning of the spring sowing to caution everyone who buys seeds to watch the label. The case cited happens to be farm sales. That doesn't mean all seed sold by farmers is poor the department adds.

Many farmers who sell seed through their own advertising get a seed test and label their seed by the test. Many seed stores and wholesalers have their private or group seed analyst. Farmers as well as seed dealers offering seed for sale must label seed as required by law. The state picks up samples through all channels, including farm sales, to test against the claims made on the label.

Serious Consequences

Besides the financial angle, purchase of unlabeled seed may have serious consequences in contamination of fields with noxious weeds, said Frank McKennon, chief of the department's plant division.

"Top that off with a crop that doesn't come up like it should, or

produces a different variety than expected, and you see that a look at the label may pay mighty well," he concluded.

The state seed law, department personnel added, stipulates purchaser protection through a label that states — on all agricultural and turf seeds — these facts: Approximate percentage, by weight, of pure seed, of weed seeds and of other crop seeds; the approximate total percentage by weight, of inert matter; name and number, per pound of each kind of noxious weed seeds present; percentage of germination and date of last germination test; percentage of hard seed; name and address of the vendor; country or state where grown; and, of course, the commonly accepted name of the seed. Seed germination tests must be made within 12 months of the date of sale.

Labeling requirements for mixed seed and vegetable seed are designed to afford similar protection to the buyer.

Anyone wishing a copy of this state seed law may obtain it by writing to the State Department of Agriculture, Salem.

OSC Professor Given Denmark Award

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Dr. G. H. Wilster, professor of dairy manufacturing at Oregon State College, has a Fulbright educational exchange grant for next school year as a lecturer in dairy science in Denmark.

The grant, which covers travel and living expenses, is the first ever awarded in dairy science in Denmark, one of the world's leading dairy countries.

Under the grant, Wilster will be on the staff of the Royal Agricultural and Veterinary college at Copenhagen. In addition to teaching, he will present a series of public lectures and short courses in "dairy communities throughout the country. He will also assist with dairy products research, especially in production of condensed milk and milk powders.

Wilster was born in Copenhagen and lived there until he was 18. All of his lectures under the grant program will be in Danish. He has been a member of the OSC staff since 1929.

Roseburg Youth Heads OTI Honor Roll List

Eugene Baudry of Roseburg, with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, topped Douglas County students on the Oregon Technical Institute honor roll for fall term which ended March 18. It was announced today. Baudry is studying medical technology.

Other county students on the Klamath Falls school's honor roll, their study course and grade were: William Ellison, diesel mechanics, 3.50; Wayne O. Roper, commercial illustration and design, 3.60; Robert F. Scott, auto body and fender repair, 3.57; and Leonard O. Warren, diesel mechanics, 3.50. all of Roseburg; Jackie P. Meshev, diesel mechanics, 3.50, and Thomas E. Rice, diesel mechanics, 3.50, both of Myrtle Creek; and Mary Ellen Kitching, general office and business practice, 3.75, Riddle.

SC SUPERVISORS MEET

Members of the board of supervisors of the North Douglas Soil

FARM and Garden

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1955 —The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 7

Careful Wool Care Advised

Sheepmen will profit more than ever this year by careful preparation of wool for market to realize highest possible returns under the new incentive payment plan, reminds H. A. Lindgren, Oregon State College livestock specialist.

This year, all wools will compete on the open market under the new wool act and the incentive payments will be based upon the woodgrower's net return. Highest payments will go to those who sell their wool for the best price.

In order to get the best price, says Lindgren, the grower must have a well put up package of wool. He offers these suggestions for shearing and preparing the clip.

(1) Tag sheep in advance of shearing, before they go into the shearing shed, so there will not be an excessive amount of dung locks in the wool. Have fleeces as free as possible of manure and straw.

(2) Furnish a "sweeper" to keep the floor clean and to see that tags are not taken up with the fleece. Tags should be bagged separately and the bats clearly marked.

(3) Shear black sheep or black-faced sheep last and sack the black wool separately or clean the shearing floor of loose black fibers before shearing the other sheep.

(4) Tie the fleece with the flesh side out and with as much of the shoulder and neck wool showing as possible. Have good quality paper twine for tying in.

A good job of tying is one of the most important steps toward getting a better price.

(5) It's better to use clean or new wool bags. Make sure that the pecking stand is in good repair with no exposed nails that might tear the wool bags.

(6) Bag staple wool separately from clothing wools, and fine wool from coarser grades. Keep the clip in identifying lots.

(7) Never shear or pack wet wool or leave it exposed to wet weather. This permits mold to develop that stains wool and weakens fibers.

Careful preparation of wool for market, Lindgren concludes, is important at all times to meet increasing competition from foreign wools and man-made fibers.

State Cattlemen Slate Convention May 8 In Corvallis

Beefsteak and salmon, long nationally-known Oregon products, will be featured fare at this year's Oregon Cattlemen's Assn. convention May 8-11 at Corvallis.

Highlighting a long list of special events are the traditional "Buckaroo Breakfast" and a salmon bake sponsored by the Corvallis Retail Merchants Association.

The breakfast will be at 6 a.m. on May 10 at Avery Park. And the salmon-bake luncheon, May 9, at the park, will be "old Indian style."

The hosting organizations—the Benton County Cattlemen's Assn., the Benton County Chamber of Commerce, and Oregon State College—are making certain that in addition to the regular business and committee sessions, association members attending will have top food and entertainment.

Other special events scheduled for the expected 700 cattlemen and their wives are a "Buckaroo Dance," May 9, at the Corvallis Elks Club; the association's annual banquet, May 10, in the college Memorial Union building with an OSC student talent show entertaining; a special breakfast by the OSC Withcombe Club at the Corvallis Hotel, May 11; and a May 10 luncheon at the college for the state Cow Belles Assn.

Tours of the OSC campus and nearby industries are being arranged along with possible trips to the coast.

Conservation District met in Yoncalla Tuesday to set up a plan of work for the coming year.

The board approved and signed their long-term program, according to J. Roland Parker, Douglas County Extension Agent.

Midwest Experiment Shows No Fertilizer Harm To Crops

Fertilizer applications that gave marked yield increases of forage and grain crops did not change the nutritive value of the crops in a recent midwest experiment studied by two Oregon State College scientists.

T. L. Jackson, OSC soil specialist, and J. E. Oldfield, animal nutritionist, report that food value of the crops was changed little, if any, by the level of soil fertility during a 10-year experiment by Michigan State College.

The study also showed that quality and quantity of milk from cows did not vary whether they received grain and forage from soils that were high in fertility or comparatively low. If a cow's ration is deficient in protein or minerals, her milk production will decrease, but the composition of the milk stays the same, according to the study.

One side of the badly depleted test farm received a complete fertilizer treatment of nitrogen, phosphate, potash and lime. The other side had only comparable nitrogen treatment.

Test crops for the two fertilizer programs were timothy and smooth bromegrass for hay and corn and soybeans for grain. These supplied the exclusive ration for the 10-year period. In the comparisons, there were no significant differences in the protein or mineral content of feed produced with the two fertilizer programs.

Jackson pointed out that while forage harvest could have been boosted considerably with adapted legumes on the high-fertility side of the farm, types of crops were limited for test purposes.

Oldfield reported no important differences in chemical composition or nutritive value of milk from the two herds whether they received feed from soil of high or low fertility.

The study also showed reproduction of animals was not affected by the soil fertilizer treatments.

Mustard Cover Crop Boosts Douglas Fir Seedling Survival

Using India mustard plants as a cover or "nurse" crop for Douglas fir tree seedlings has brought promising results in first year studies by Oregon State College.

The mustard provides shade for the tender young seedlings and brought marked increases in tree survival in initial tests, according to Dr. W. W. Chilcote, OSC botanist and project leader.

High soil temperature, especially on south slopes, is a common cause for death of Douglas fir tree seedlings, Chilcote explained. The mustard cover crop "shade" reduces soil surface temperature and aids the growth of the seedlings.

Competition for soil moisture by the mustard plant may limit its use even though the mustard dies early in the summer, Chilcote said. This point will be checked further in studies this year.

Research is tied in with the problem of establishing forest tree seedlings following removal or burning off of the timber stand. The seed bed is especially favorable for a brief time after removal and foresters are interested in finding the best ways to get seedlings off to a good start before useless brush grows up.

India mustard is not to be confused with the common mustard. Its growth habits are considerably different. Observations over the past two years indicate the mustard will not last more than one or two years and will not spread from forest lands.

The bureau of land management has given the college two \$3000 grants to finance the study.

LIVESTOCK DISEASES

Livestock diseases reported in March to the state veterinarian at Salem included 1,022 cases on 251 farms and ranches, with 65 deaths. Shipping fever in cattle and ecthyma in sheep accounted for about half the cases in the 26 diseases reported. Infectious keratitis, at the top of the list in the previous month, was down. Brucellosis was down with 79 reactors in 52 herds.

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FARM-FOREST-FACTS

By Ed Gilden
County Extension Agent

All fires aren't spectacular! In fact, the "unspectacular" fire over a period of years is often the most harmful.

The forest fires that make the headlines and are remembered and talked about for years are the spectacular ones — the ones that destroy a lot of timber, property, and people.

The little fires, the "unspectacular" ones, that just creep along the ground are often shrugged off.

HOW OFTEN have you heard people make this comment, "Burning doesn't hurt the trees — it just burns the leaves and kills the brush."

True, these unspectacular fires do not actually kill much timber and the damage they do to the ground cover is soon hidden by new growth and sprouts.

But — small fires are the reason that a lot of our Douglas County land is growing brush instead of fir trees.

A small "unspectacular" fire can wipe out twenty-year-old fir trees right before your eyes. Small grass and fern fires kill trees that you may not even know exist.

Killing young trees is only one of the damages from small fires. **SOIL FERTILITY** loss is the other problem.

With each fire, a little more of

Guernsey Cattle Growers To Meet In Los Angeles

Oregon's participation in the stepped-up federal-state brucellosis (Bang's) control program is paying dividends in increased testing throughout the state, the Oregon Department of Agriculture reported this week.

In December, January and February, about 6,000 more cattle were tested than in the same months the previous year from November through February about 7,500 more calves than a year earlier were vaccinated against brucellosis.

So far, the incidence of brucellosis infection in eastern Oregon herds has been considerably lower than anticipated at the outset of this program, said Dr. Lee M. Anderson, assistant state veterinarian who is directing this activity for the department.

In western Oregon, the program is functioning smoothly. Four counties—Curry, Coos, Josephine and Clatsop—are now modified certified brucellosis-free areas. Marion and Yamhill counties have applied for and are qualified for this certification and will receive certificates early in April. Several other western Oregon counties are eligible and will be certified after application is made to the state and federal governments.

This accelerated program was accepted in Oregon last November 18. Early testing with all eastern Oregon county courts and livestock leaders to explain the program. By the time all counties were contacted and had accepted the plan, it was too late to make a substantial gain in beef cattle testing. This phase will show greater gains from now until animals are placed on the summer range, Dr. Anderson predicted.

The panel has been scheduled for the morning of May 1, in the Statler Hotel.

The convention program, covering May 9-12, also includes trips to various purebred Guernsey farms and milk plants around Los Angeles, a special Guernsey sale, and the club's annual business meeting.

Moderator of the panel discussion will be Dr. E. L. Jack, head of the department of dairy industry at the University of California. Other panel members will be Dr. Jessie V. Coles, head, department of home economics, UC; Grover D. Turnbow, president, Golden State and Foremost Dairies; Dr. R. G. Bressler, director, Giannini Foundation, UC; Dr. Jean Nayer, nutritionist, school of public health, Harvard University; and Dr. Wendell Griffith, school of medicine, UCLA.

Dr. Jack has been associated with the dairy industry for 35 years.

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