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EXPERTS SEE POTATO FIELDS

DISEASES FOUND BY O. A. C. AGENT.

Effort to Obtain Clean and Good Seed Potatoes Begun.

M. B. McKay of the plant pathology department of the Oregon Agricultural

college spent a day in Union county inspecting potato fields in the various districts. Mr. McKay is a potato disease expert and his trip into this county will give us a better idea of our various potato troubles. Potato scab, Rhizoctonia, or little potato disease, and Fusarium Wilt have been, and are, our most common and well known troubles. However, a considerable amount of Mosaic disease and Black Leg was found together with a small amount of Spindle Sprout and early blight. The two last mentioned diseases in this county are of little consequence so far. However, Mosaic disease in conjunction with Rhizoctonia is very common, and is responsible for the large percentage

of dwarfed or semi-dwarfed potato plants with more or less crinkled and light colored or light spotted leaves. Black leg causes the hollow stems and rotting of the potato stems above ground. These troubles may be handled, along with the first three mentioned, first: By the selection of our potato seed. We must select our seed from plants that do not show a diseased condition of the vine. Secondly: We must treat our seed before planting. The Mosaic disease can not be controlled by seed treatment nor is there anything to indicate the disease upon or within the potato tuber itself. The only way to eliminate it is to be sure that your seed potatoes do not come from vines thus affected. This can be accomplished by going into the potato fields during the growing season and digging out all plants so affected.

We also found that the potato fields where the potato seed had been treated before planting and the seed not being affected by Mosaic disease, were much better than the ordinary run of fields in the community. However, the cleanest field that we found was one where the seed had been treated with Corrosive Sublimate as against Formaldehyde in most other cases. Results all over the state of Oregon seem to indicate that Corrosive Sublimate is giving the best results for seed potato treatment. Mr. McKay's trip to the county of Union pointed out more clearly than ever that along with our seed treatment we must procure as nearly as possible disease free seed and to produce such seed we must begin by going among our growing fields and remove all vines that do not show a vigorous, thrifty top. This would be followed up at planting time with treatment with Corrosive Sublimate.

If you have a field of potatoes which you think would make good seed, take the time to go through the field now and take out all vines that are not thrifty. It will pay you well to do so.

Mt. Emily News.

Mt. Emily, Sept. 2.—(Special)—Several dozen Boy Scouts are camped at the Bear Wallow and are having a great time. More than a score of people were up here last Sunday and all seemed well pleased with the trip. In your issue of last Monday the name of Bear Wallow was given as Hog Wallow. The former is bad enough and the latter will not do at all. There are no hogs up here and there never have been any here, except perhaps an occasional "game hog" or "berry hog." The Bear Wallow was given that name because in earlier times the bears would come there in hot weather to lie around and keep cool, just as human beings are doing now.

Anyone going to Mt. Emily should take the first road to the right as soon as they reach the top of Fox Hill. This road will be found a short distance beyond the very first trees that are passed; after that keep in the main traveled road until you reach the telephone line and then follow it as near as possible. Very close to the south line of the Wenaha National Forest (which is also the south line of the Blumenstine place) the road forks again and automobiles must take the right hand road in order to get through to the summit. This is the road along which the telephone wire is strung. The dry weather has caused the roads to become somewhat dusty but other years they were dustier than now.

Campers, hunters, etc., should be very careful with fire now. Most of them build too large a fire and then have trouble in putting it out. A few handfuls of small sticks will be enough for a fire to boil coffee or cook an ordinary meal on. A fire built with such material is easy to put out but when large pieces of wood are used they must be turned over and wet on every side or else some fire is almost sure to remain and cause trouble. The hot weather has caused the huckleberries to ripen fast but there are still many green ones. A large band of sheep has been up here and destroyed the berries in places.

Your correspondent thinks that if someone would make a pneumatic saddle he would do a great favor to city people and others who are not used to riding horseback. Why should good men and women be flayed and bruised all along their posterior anatomy when there is plenty of air that could be worked into suitable cushions? Surely all the surplus air is not needed to fill the tires of automobiles and the leathery lungs of campaign orators and street fakers.

WALNUT VARIETIES WANTED

Committee of Oregon Walnut Growers Association Making Investigations

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Aug. 30.—A walnut variety that more nearly meets the commercial and producing conditions in Oregon is wanted by the Oregon State Walnut Growers' Association, which has appointed a committee to investigate walnut varieties with a view to making selection.

"Although the walnut industry in Oregon is making rapid progress as it is," says Professor C. I. Lewis, chief of the Horticultural division at O. A. C., and chairman of the committee, "we have not yet succeeded in getting the most profitable variety. First of all it must be a good commercial nut of good uniform size, medium thickness of shell, with a light colored well flavored kernel. The shell should close about the kernels, without cracking between the two halves.

"In order to make the production of this type of nut most profitable it should be grown on vigorous, heavy bearing trees. The variety should also be blight resistant. There are probably 5000 acres or more of walnuts growing in Oregon at this time and doubtless among the many seedlings being grown are some that very nearly meet all these requirements. If the committee is able to select this variety, the walnut industry in Oregon will become more profitable."

The committee has already found three promising varieties near three

different towns in Oregon. These will be investigated more fully along the latter part of September, at which time the committee will also visit other promising trees if notified by the growers. All growers who have trees approaching these requirements are asked to send notification to the chairman of the committee at Corvallis, Oregon.

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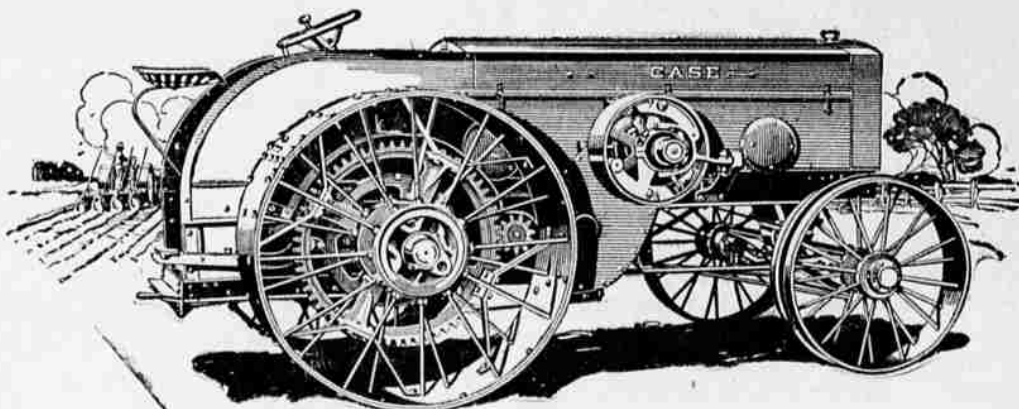
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