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"Notes by the Wayside"

Too Much Cultivation Can Hurt Roots, Declares County Agent

By John J. Inskeep, County Farm Agent
Damaged by excessive care and cultivation. This was our verdict after looking over an otherwise excellent blackcap planting in Clackamas County last week. We avoid the name of the owner for fear of embarrassment but write of the incident because it is all too common.

Leaves of the plants in question showed sun scald and yellowish color indicating lack of nitrogen although fertility of the land is high.

Here is what happened. The plants were busy all spring establishing a feeder root system which extended from one row to the other. Weeds came along also, as a late spring prevented any early cultivation. "I will get those weeds but good" said the owner. And he did, but he cultivated so deeply that feeder roots, which are naturally formed at the surface of the soil, were pretty well destroyed. Most of the moisture was lost as deeply as cultivator teeth penetrated the soil during the same operation.

The effect is about the same as if the operator were to take a spade and dig a trench along each row, destroying all roots extending into the space between rows. This is not advising growers not to cultivate but, at best, late spring or summer cultivation is a compromise between weed control, the greatest factor in loss of soil moisture, and destruction of feeder roots and loss of moisture through cultivation. The time may come when we mulch with sawdust or some other cheap material or grow a permanent leguminous cover crop. In either case cultivation would be entirely eliminated.

As the matter stands, some weed growth is often to be preferred to clean cultivation and destruction of feeder roots.

Lotus Need Companion
What we most need, next to a good five cent cigar, or even a ten cent one, is a grass which matures late enough to use as a companion crop for lotus as a hay crop. Most of our grasses, which is the case also with red clover, mature so early that they must be cut when the rainy season is still with us. If the grower cuts when the grass is at the best stage for hay production his hay is destroyed by rains. If he delays cutting, value of his hay is lessened by excessive maturity. Lotus plants mature late enough so that cutting for hay may be delayed until right around the first of July. We have observed that mesquite grass volunteers in most lotus plantings and mesquite is another early grass.

This problem was discussed with H. H. "Hank" Hampton during a recent visit to Clackamas County and he suggested that we try a type of late maturing rust resistant timothy. We have not been interested in ordinary timothy because it is too early maturing and subject to rust disease. We are arranging for demonstration plantings of this new timothy with lotus major next spring.

Water Farming Expensive
We are frequently asked why hydroponic farming is not more popular and also how to go about it. Hydroponic farming to you and me means growing plants in water supplied with necessary fertilizer elements. Recently a Clackamas County resident wrote to E. R. Jackman, Oregon's Extension Farm Crop Specialist, asking the same questions.

We quote his reply because we think it covers the subject in a plausible manner. "In general, we can say that it is far cheaper to grow vegetables and other crops in soil and supply only a small portion of their needs by fertilizers than it is to grow the crops without soil and supply

their entire needs by purchasing the various minerals. In other words this system of farming is not likely to be of much practical value until the earth's population becomes so great that prices of agricultural products are far higher than they are now. At present, if one goes to the store and buys all the fertilizers needed by plants, he is likely to spend more money than the plants are worth after they are raised. The reason for this, of course, is that on a commercial fertilizer basis, most of our farm land is worth from 5 thousand to 10 thousand dollars per acre and in some cases even more. Land does not sell for that high a price, and therefore the minerals in the soil are far cheaper than those that we buy in sacks from fertilizer companies. Therefore it costs far less to grow crops in soil than it does in pans filled with dilute solutions of purchased minerals."

Discuss Turkey Feed
We discussed fall green feed for turkeys with Steve Eymann, during a visit to his Molalla farm last week. Good green pasture saves lots of expensive purchased concentrates for the turkey grower, the same as for the dairyman. The question of what to grow for this purpose is important as turkey growers like to rotate their pastures and want plenty of fall growth.

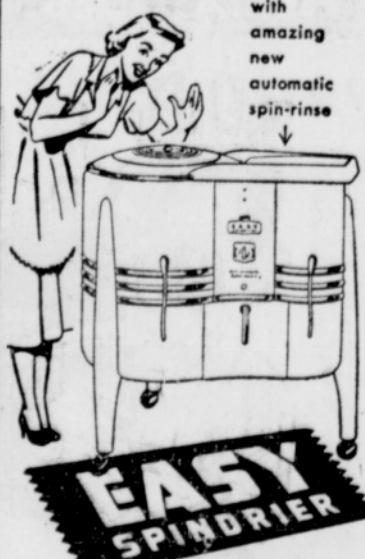
For this purpose we suggested first of September planting of common ryegrass and crimson clover fertilized with 200 lbs. per acre of 16-20-0 ammonium phosphate. When 16-20 is not available we suggested, per acre, 200 lbs. of ammonium sulphate and 500 of superphosphate.

Planting for quick fall growth should be heavier than common, so we suggested 20 lbs. of ryegrass and 10 to 15 of crimson clover.

Fertilizes Cherry Orchard
Among others was a visit to Perry Yoder's, Yoder pie cherry orchard. Perry is well pleased with the growth his trees have made this year following a liberal application of barnyard manure. However, we couldn't pass up the temptation of chiding him a bit because of a light growth of red weed or pig weed in his orchard. Said Perry, "Young fellow, when red weed shows up in my orchard it is a sign that my soil is build-up up. I am not so much bothered about cultivation when the soil is rich enough to grow red weed." Them's our sentiments also.

Several weeks ago a berry farmer from the Beavercreek area brought in some diseased red raspberry leaves from his field. Somehow, we mislaid the card his name was on, so we are hoping he will read this and get in touch with us again. The leaves showed yellow mottling along the leaf veins. It is important that this farmer get in touch with us, according to Leon Garolan, Jr., Assistant County Agent. Garolan states that Dr. Vaughn, O.S.C. plant pathologist is anxious to study this particular trouble in the field.

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Boy Visits Great Grandfather



Four generations are represented in this picture taken at the Gus Logus home Sunday. In the picture are, left to right, back row, Ray DeClark, Mrs. Ferd G. Logus; front row, Mrs. John Stanley, holding her son, Ronald, Gus Logus and Ferd G. Logus.

Man From Aims Rejoins Marines

AIMS—Stanley Blair has gone to rejoin the Marines.

Mrs. Emil Strongberg and two sons, Carl and Engimire, are picking black cap berries for Mr. A. J. Bram on Carpenter Lane, near Pleasant Home.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Haggstrom are adding two more bedrooms to their house. They expect to have them finished by the last of this week.

Visitors at the Claude Bair home recently were Mrs. Bair's sisters, Mrs. Stella Coddington, Emmitt, Idaho; Mrs. Della Coddington, Hills City, Kansas; Mrs. Hazel Sprattling, Norton, Kansas; Mr. and Mrs. Raley Anderson and daughter, of Hills City, Kansas and her son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Elden Loe of St. Helens, Oregon.

Annie Kinsman has gone to

Seattle, Wash., for a visit with friends.

Post classified ads get results!

Four Generations At Family Party

Four generations were represented in a family gathering at the Gus Logus home two miles north of Sandy Sunday.

Mrs. John Stanley, a granddaughter of Mr. Logus, and her son, Ronald, were visiting from Waterbury, Conn. Ferd G. Logus, a son of Gus Logus, also was present. Ferd Logus lives near the Gus Logus home.

Also visiting were Mrs. Ferd Logus and Ray DeClark, Portland, a grandson of Gus Logus.

Gus Logus, who will celebrate his 81st birthday Aug. 25, came to this area as a homesteader 42 years ago.

Pastor to Leave Pulpit at Haley

Rev. H. C. Moore will deliver his last sermon at the Haley Baptist Church Sunday. Rev. Moore with his wife, daughter Rhoda Jean, sons S. Lowell James and Norman Tone will move to Newberg to serve the First Baptist church in that city beginning September 4.

Rev. Moore, who has been with the Haley Baptist church for the past 4 years is at present managing the Arrah Wana Baptist summer camp at Wenme and will be there through August.

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