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ABOUT THE FARM - - -

Notes by the Wayside—

Boring Farm Shows Test On Hybrids Grown In Northern Clackamas County

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

Since most of the corn acreage in the north end is grown for ensilage, and the amount is limited, we had not conducted corn variety trials there. Nevertheless, corn is an important crop for those who grow it in the Boring-Sandy area. So we are glad to obtain a report from Matt Huismann, Boring, who conducted a trial of his own comparing Oregon hybrids 525 and 355 last summer.

Matt did not have actual production figures with him when he called at the office, but he found "Hybrid 355 greatly superior. There were more ears on 355 and larger ears. Moreover, 355 was well matured before fall frosts appeared, while 525 suffered frost damage. I planted my corn on May 10th.

"A wind storm in the fall caused 525 to lodge badly, but little damage was done to 355.

"I also left portions of the field unfertilized and used 11-43 ammonium phosphate at the rate of 125 pounds per acre on another portion of the field. Fertilized plots tasseled two weeks earlier and matured two weeks earlier than those which received no fertilizer.

"I used fertilizer in the planter attachment which made deposits beneath each hill but I believe side dressings would produce better results."

We might add that good grain corn is often the best ensilage corn because well eared corn is much richer than corn without ears and the tonnage is larger. The weight of ears adds considerably to the total weight. Variety used is of great importance and so is planting distance. Under ordinary conditions, three stalks to the hill is about right for both grain and ensilage. When corn is drilled a distance of approximately 18 inches between stalks seems about right.

Activity statistics from a county extension office do not necessarily indicate a measure of accomplishment, but to those unacquainted with the extension program, they do form a measure of activity.

Here is a summary of activities of the four Clackamas County extension agents in agriculture for the month of February: Office calls, 564. Incoming telephone calls, 439. Farm visits, an even 150. Individual letters written, 261. Meetings held or attended, 70. Number attending meetings, 2480. Not included are circular letters, outgoing telephone calls, bulletins distributed, and calls at the desk when an agent was not visited personally.

During the next four months activities will be devoted more to field work with outdoor meetings, tours and farm visits.

As explained in a previous article, we cannot begin to visit all of those who would like a call. There are not days enough, nor do we have funds in our budget. But we do want to call on as many as possible who are planting some new crop and those conducting field demonstrations.

These latter calls are both for providing information to the farm operator and for self education. So much is going on that, were we to confine all of our activities to the office, we would soon be behind the times. We try to keep a jump or so ahead of Clackamas County farmers, but sometimes we find it difficult and we are not so slow either.

While holding office in Sandy recently, Bub Nelson called and we dropped in on Ivan Barker for a cup of coffee. Bub must have a number of relatives in Sandy for he introduced several and visiting got around to gardening and complaints were made that tomatoes just don't do well here. So we made some suggestions we thought might be worth recording.

Tomatoes should not be planted on heavily fertilized soil. Plants so grown may become large and produce only a few and sour fruits late in September.

Starting with a soil of only moderate fertility, here are our suggestions:

Choose small thrifty plants of an early variety such as Victor or New Hampshire Victor.

Dig a hole about 12 inches deep. Place a handful of phosphate in the bottom and mix thoroughly with the soil.

Set the plant so that only the tip is exposed. Cover with a paper cover, commercial waxed cover preferred.

Processing As tip of plant grows to top of cover, tear out the paper tip of cover, and allow tomato plant to grow through.

As soon as fruit is set, use some good nitrogen-bearing fertilizer such as ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulphate or animal

urine and irrigate fertilizer into the ground.

These earlier varieties, properly handled, may be expected to bear two to three weeks ahead of standard varieties and are recommended for early fruit and for higher elevations. They are self-pruning types with abundance of fruit in proportion to leaf surface so that absence of late fertilization as described may result in small and imperfect fruit.

Cover Crop We were also asked at Sandy about a suitable cover crop for clean ground to be planted to strawberries a year from now. Our recommendation is crimson clover, 15 pounds per acre, planted on a firm seedbed in June or July.

Crimson clover, so planted, makes excellent summer, fall and winter cover. Summer cover holds down soil temperature and slows up humus previously stored in the soil and winter cover prevents erosion. Crimson clover, so used, is an excellent soil builder and no seeds remain to volunteer among newly set out berry plants.

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Browsing Around



By Louise Hodson

I'm feeling sad this week, in a happy way, if that's possible. Sad because I will be leaving The Sandy Post with all the hard-headed, gripin' hurrying pressure-inflicting office staff that I've worked with for the past year. That's a laugh! It's hard to leave a place after you've grown a few roots, and I've found how deep those roots can grow in a few months.

I'm goin' up north, to Alaska. Call it a touch of wanderlust if you will, or the desire for adventure, but this trip will fulfill a dream I've been harboring for several years. A chance to see a place that's always intrigued me. Might even take advantage of some experience. It will do wonders for me in regards to my future writing.

I find this a difficult article to write. Difficult particularly in trying to choose words to express the empty feeling that comes to everyone when trying to break away from a thing that has played an important part in their life's pattern. We've all done the same thing, and we all run up against the same happy uncertainty about the future and the same pleasant sadness about the past.

I've been overjoyed by the response and cooperation from so many people in the area for making my job as possible and complete as it has been. So with a touch of reluctance I turn my job over to Terry (Mrs. Richard) Revenaugh, who is a very capable, talented, and a pleasing person.

I hope from time to time I'm permitted to drop all my friends a casual note via The Sandy Post and hope at the same time that my readers have enjoyed my articles just a fraction as much as I've enjoyed writing them.

The name paper is derived from the Latin word Papyrus.

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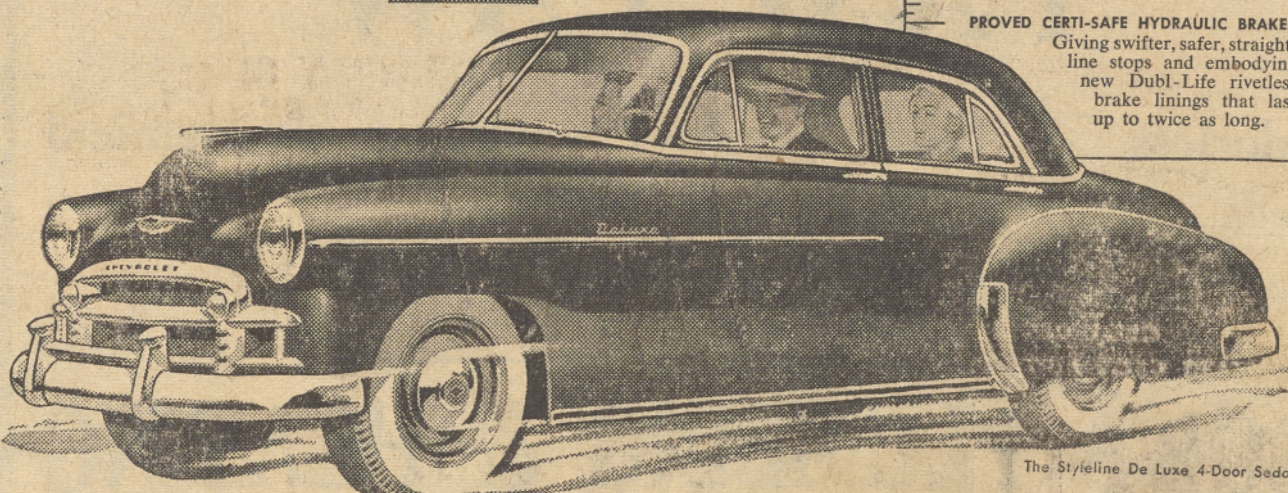
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