

About The Farm - - -

By John J. Inskip, County Agent

Announcement of release of a new plant variety is always exciting news to the progressive farmer who uses only the best. At the same time, new crops may have certain geographic limitations.

For instance, Oregon State college recently announced release of a new silage corn, Oregon 150, to replace Oregon 5-25. The latter has long been a popular variety for counties south of Clackamas county. It has not been well adapted here. Many growers find Oregon 525 too late in maturing this far north. Clackamas county growers have, consequently, stuck by Oregon 355.

Dr. R. E. Fore, Oregon State college corn breeder, points out that the new Oregon 150 also has a later maturity date than Oregon 355. Our suggestion is that Clackamas county growers use the new hybrid next spring in small trial plantings only. And then in comparison with 355.

Growers of ensilage corn can easily be mistaken with the merits of tall corn bearing little grain. In well-ear corn silage, the grain may constitute over half the feed value and nearly half the weight.

Many of the annual weeds which infest the new pasture planting can be controlled with a weed spray without damaging grass and clover seedlings, according to research completed by the Northwestern Washington experiment station. However, legume seedlings may be dam-

aged if sprayed before the plant has developed its first true leaf.

Dinitro amine is the only chemical recommended for this purpose. Two quarts of dinitro amine (1.5 pounds active ingredient) in 50 gallons of water per acre is recommended. Use low pressures (30 to 40 pounds per square inch).

Annual weeds, especially those of the mustard family, are quite susceptible to this spray. Smartweed, wild buckwheat (black bindweed), chickweed, common groundsel, and many other broad-leaved weeds are easily killed with dinitro amine in the seedling stage of growth. Pigweed and lamb's quarters are less susceptible but are usually held in check until the grasses and legumes can compete with them.

Corn spurry, wild carrot, dog fennel, pineapple weed are usually not killed by this spray. Some seedling species of perennial weeds may be controlled but those perennial weeds which make regrowth from old roots and underground rootstocks are not killed by this spray.

Fully stocked fir tree stands need thinning even as young as 20 years—or fence post size. Few landowners have thinned such young trees because markets for that size material are limited.

Vernon Goode, small-forest owner of Clackamas county, says that it pays to thin even if you have to invest \$25 per acre to do it. He thinned a thick 23-year-old stand at a cost of \$25.50 per acre this year. Goode, a consulting



SANDY—Corkum Construction company started building the new Sandy grade school unit here last week. The building is expected to be finished by December. There will be room for three class rooms in the building in addition to a boiler room

and is the first unit of a complete school. The Corkum firm bid \$115,000 for the job. Shown in this picture are Art Grimm, construction foreman and Perry Dolph, the contractor's representative.

New Producer Tags Needed By Aug. 3

New producer tags for the movement of carcasses of cattle, calves, sheep and hogs will be available in this county after August 3 from Sheriff Fred Reaksecker.

This word comes from the state department of agriculture at Salem, which also says producers may get the free tags from brand inspectors at livestock sales yards.

Under 1955 amendments to the gasoline cowboy act—which always has required producers to tag carcasses moved from premises where slaughtered—only one tag will be necessary. Tags to move poultry and rabbit carcasses will not be needed after August 3.

The legislature also put distribution of these tags in the hands of the department's brand inspectors and others designated by the department. "We hope," says M. E. Knickerbocker, animal division chief, "to maintain the same high level of identification reached by the sheriffs of Oregon in the many years they have handled these tags. In a few counties, producers will still be able to obtain tags through the sheriff's office."

In readiness for the switch-over, the department has distributed an entirely new type of producer tag. After August 3 the old tags will not be recognized by the state.

forester, says the thinning investment will reduce rotation age by ten years. Here is how he figures:

Native Stand

Estimated yield at rotation age of 60 years is 43,000 board feet per acre, gross.

Managed Stand

Same yield at rotation age of 50 years.

Later thinnings at five-year intervals will yield a return. The initial thinning at age 23 is considered quite important because it affects the stand at a highly responsive period.

Goode has been pruning 25 to 30 year old Douglas fir to a height of ten feet. The cost, at \$1.50 per hour, was approximately 12 cents per tree. He pruned only vigorous, fast growing trees and looks forward to harvesting some of them within 20 years with a minimum diameter inside bark of 18 inches. Using a price premium of \$10 per M on 210 board feet per tree, and deducting costs, he sees a profit per tree of \$1.10 for this work.

He did not prune to the 17 foot height at this time; however, costs for the higher pruning he estimates at 26 cents per tree. Trees will be pruned to 17 feet in later stages.

Although Oregon tops all other states in the amount of wood in its forests, we are not one of the larger producers of pulpwood. Yet the national use of pulpwood will zoom, according to an exhaustive analysis prepared for Weyerhaeuser Timber company by the Stanford Research Institute. Pulpwood use is expected to grow from 26.50 million cords in 1952 to 48.8 million cords in 1975. Products made from pulpwood are paper, box boards, and building boards (insulating board and hard board).

During the same 23 year period, lumber consumption will rise only 10 per cent. Plywood and veneer will soar from 3.3 billion square feet to 7.5 billion square feet.

Plywood plants have been multiplying in Oregon. One way or another, more pulpwood will be used in Oregon. We simply have too much wood to miss the outstanding trend. A strong pulpwood market, because it can use small trees, doubles the interest in farm forestry.

Remember the disastrous fires on the LaDee flats above Estacada in 1929 and 1939? This area was immediately planted by the U. S. Forestry service. At least a portion was hand planted and other portions reproduced naturally.

Regardless of how it was accomplished, this area of former desolation now presents a beautiful stand of fir timber. We had the pleasure of looking it over with district ranger Bill Ronayne, Estacada, recently. He is justly proud of this second growth area and says it is only a matter now of preventing another disastrous fire.

Real purpose of this visit was to inspect a "planting" of Klamath weed beetles released "on the burn" by extension agent Clive

Cook last summer. We failed to find any bugs but there are several other "plantings" to inspect.

Bill Ronayne has been trying out different grasses to hold the soil from erosion following clear cutting of timber. The idea is to protect the soil until trees take over again. Chewings fescue seems to be one of the best erosion prevention. The big question is this, "Will the grass offer too much competition for seedling trees?" We have noted many fine stands of naturally reproduced fir on old sod fields throughout the county, but chewings fescue might offer too much competition. Bill is watching this situation closely.

The Oregon state game commission seeded a trial cutover area to lotus major on top, across the river from Fish creek. Lotus major, the commission finds, makes excellent deer feed in the coast range. Inspection of the seeding shows amazingly good stands. These plants should throw a lot of seed this summer. Just what a concentration of deer on a small feed area might do to seedling firs is still another problem.

Rotary Screen Gets Credit For Savings

SANDY—The rotary screen installation on the Marmot dam power diversion, on the Sandy river is credited with saving more than 15,000 downstream migrant fish from entering the dam diversion during the last month, according to a release by the state game commission.

The tally on the migrants showed that 193 cutthroat, 3,804 marked hatchery-reared steelhead, 7,422 wild steelhead and 3,584 salmon were saved at Marmot.

The screen at Marmot is one of seven rotary screen installations checking stations on five Oregon streams where more than 22,400 trout, steelhead and salmon were tallied through the bypass traps prevented from entering irrigation and power diversion canals this past month, according to word from the state game commission.

At the present, the Oregon game commission has in operation on irrigation and power diversion canals more than 1,000 rotary screens which prevent fish life from entering and becoming lost to the angler. At 20 of these screen installations, checking stations are maintained by the commission where records are kept of both upstream and downstream migrant fish. Last year these 20 stations recorded a total of 89,235 trout, steelhead, and salmon which were prevented from entering irrigation and power diversions.

SOUND OFF

BRIGHTWOOD — Pvt. Roy Stevens recently returned to Fort Ord, California, following a short leave at home with his wife and son. Pvt. Stevens recently completed an eight week training course.

His wife, the former Wilma Haughtaling, plans to join her husband in California as soon as possible.

Dairy Herds Show Splendid Records In County Tests

SANDY—Two dairy herds in this section of Clackamas county qualified for the county honor roll by producing 40 or more pounds of butterfat during June. It is shown in the monthly report of County Agent Hugh Ca-ton.

A herd of 12 cows owned by Dr. J. B. Harrison of Eagle Creek produced 49 pounds, while the Meier dairy of Boring, with 52 cows, produced 43.1 pounds.

In individual records a registered Jersey owned by Mr. and Mrs. Arno Scheller of Colton produced 75.2 pounds. A registered Brown Swiss owned by the Meier dairy farm produced 97 pounds, and a grade Brown Swiss from the Meier herd produced 88 pounds. Three registered Holsteins on the Dr. Harrison farm at Eagle Creek produced 81.5, 75.6 and 93 pounds, respectively. A registered Holstein owned by the Sun Valley dairy of Boring produced 75.1 pounds.

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