

By J.J. Inskeep

NOTES BY THE WAYSIDE

We know it has been published before but here is a reminder. For details so far as Clackamas County is concerned, contact the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office at 660 Mc Loughlin Blvd., Gladstone.

Oregon farmers who earmarked marginal cropland for forest plantings under the Soil Bank program can receive payment for the conservation practice even though they are unable to get trees to make the planting this year.

Charles Ross, Oregon State College extension farm forestry specialist, says forest seedlings in Oregon are being

rationed to stretch supplies among as many persons as possible. Even so, seedling supplies may run short of demand this fall.

A four to five-fold increase in seedling supplies is expected next year. Ross advises farmers to sign up land now for the Soil Bank's conservation reserve program and receive rental payments until trees are available. Sign-up before April 1 will prevent any loss of eligibility.

The state forestry department, Salem, has reported 3 million young trees, mostly Douglas fir, available from the Oregon state forest nurs-

ery this fall. An estimated 15 million or more seedlings will be available next fall following expansion of the nursery program to meet expected Soil Bank needs.

Meanwhile, the forestry department, OSC extension service and the U. S. Forest service are cooperating with farmers to get as many plantings as possible started this year. County extension agents can advise farmers on getting technical assistance to help decide what to plant and how to plant, Ross says.

The Soil Bank pays \$25 an acre toward costs of buying and planting trees plus annual rental payments of \$8 to \$14 an acre for land in the reserve program. Most lands in Oregon will be eligible for \$13 an acre rental, the specialist says.

Ten year contracts are required on tree plantings for forestry purposes. Either five or ten year contracts are available, however, if plantings are for shelterbelts, wind breaks or wildlife habitats. Farmers with lands not eligible for the conservation reserve are advised to investigate possibilities of forest plantings under the agricultural conservation program.

A short time ago we told of a delightful visit with a group of five New Zealand young men who stayed as guests of Oregon City Rotary over the weekend. In this article we gave a brief description of the New Zealand dairy management practices. And we said, "We do all of our milking in one place. They have temporary or portable milk sheds and do their milking in the field".

Unfortunately, we did not explain that their sheds are ultra modern and sanitary. We know this system has much to recommend it and that it is ideal for their conditions.

Anyhow, the article caught up with our visitors at Eureka, California and he wrote us as follows. This letter should be of interest to many of our readers:

"We received the newspaper accounts of our visit to Oregon City today. Thank your officials very much."

"One item which I would not like you to have an incorrect impression of was the milking sheds. All milking on our farms is done in sheds similar to your modern dairies, with electric machines, by a vacuum release milking plant and cows are never milked in the field. Stainless steel equipment only is used to promote hygiene and sheds must conform to rigid standards of cleanliness."

"Milk is conveyed by bulk tanker to processing plants and is untouched by hand at every stage."

"Hoping this information may be of interest to you. Thank you once again for the enjoyable hospitality you extended to us."

Even the most avid Oregonian must admit that our hardwood tree leaves lack the brilliant coloring found in the east coast after the first fall frost. Not that we do not have our wonderful coniferous forests and rugged mountainsides to more than compensate for this. Shall we say shortcoming? And then there are exceptions. Vine maple leaves take on a brilliant crimson this time of year and dogwood leaves assume a

pleasing red.

We have often wondered whether it is the climate or something else which accounts for the commonplace yellow of Oregon maples when the hunter's moon appears.

During a visit to Carl Joehnk's place south of Canby, recently we observed two sugar maple trees which a relative sent us from West Virginia a few years back. They are yet small but their leaves presented the same crimson array found in their home state at the beginning of the squirrel season.

If we could draw a conclusion it would be that tree species and not climate is responsible for the drab fall appearance of our ash, oak and maple trees. Arguments to the contrary will be given due attention.

The following letters from Don Coin Walrod, County Extension Agent Washington County, has for the first time,

brought to our attention the possibility of growing cork oak in this area. We immediately wrote to the firm interested in this project for further information. If cork oak growing looks like a profitable venture we shall endeavor to obtain a few trial plantings in Clackamas County.

Don reports, "A few of our folks here in the county (Columbia) have become interested in these trees and we have some growing here in the county. Just what the future of this particular tree might be we do not know, but are lead to believe that it might have quite a future if it will grow here successfully."

"The cork people tell us that it should be adapted to our area as it needs an acid soil and grown best where drainage is good. The trees are reported to be growing throughout the coastal area of California."

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