



Better alfalfa

The superior growth of the alfalfa seedlings in the two center pots is due to their being inoculated with massive amounts of select strains of nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

Breakthroughs announced for alfalfa

Historically, alfalfa growers have increased yields and improved quality by employing more efficient procedures for irrigating, fertilizing, harvesting and other comparable farming practices.

These diverse agricultural procedures, interestingly enough, share a common denominator; they all take place after the seed has been planted.

But a new concept is now emerging in alfalfa production: it relates to what takes place before the seed is planted, rather than after.

Two factors are involved: Coating the seeds prior to planting to aid emergence and survival, to reduce seed costs and to provide massive numbers of the proper nitrogen-fixing bacteria and planting varieties that have been bred to exhibit the most desirable traits for specific growing areas.

Inoculating alfalfa and other legume seeds with bacteria is not exactly a recent discovery. What is new is that the recently introduced Rhizo-Kote process of inoculation provides a far

wider range of benefits.

Generally speaking, the major objective of inoculating legume seeds such as alfalfa is to provide proper bacteria for effective root nodulation which enables the plant to fix free nitrogen from the air and to convert it to a form that can be utilized by the plant for growth and nutrition.

A major breakthrough of the Rhizo-Kote program is that it selects the most efficient strains of rhizobia or bacteria for individual alfalfa varieties.

Other advantages of this type of inoculation include increased weight for uniform seed distribution, lower seed cost and improved emergence and survival resulting from surrounding the seed with a controlled germination zone.

The Rhizo-Kote system of pre-inoculation also provides a carrier capable of holding a far greater number of rhizobia than the conventional methods of pre-inoculation.

Although rhizobia may be present in different soil types, the concentration of

the required strains to produce maximum nodulation may be lacking. In contrast, the Rhizo-Kote process provides massive amounts of the desired strain of rhizobia required for peak success.

Carl Spiva, agronomist, said that "seed coating is a new dimension to the success of emergence and survival of the seedlings."

Spiva's research indicates that frequently the planting of raw seeded legumes such as alfalfa achieve only 30 percent emergence and survival due largely to a lack of uniform planting depth.

"Coated seed overcomes this problem," Spiva said, "by surrounding the seed with materials that absorb and hold moisture around the entire seed surface. Raw seeds, unless pressed into the soil with a ring roller or similar equipment, present a

relatively smaller amount of surface for contact with the soil."

The Rhizo-Kote coating also neutralizes the pH in the germination zone which contributes to optimum nodulation and seedling development. The high concentration of rhizobia in the coating offers added insurance.

Although the coating protects the rhizobia from ultra-violet light, provides insulation from heat and toxic materials and keeps the rhizobia alive longer, the major benefits provided the farmer include improved emergence and increased seedling survival.

Controlled tests have indicated that the Rhizo-Kote seed coating improves emergence in alkaline as well as in acid soils by maintaining a controlled germination zone around

each seed. The neutralized soil area resulting provides the rhizobia with an ideal medium for initiating effective nodulation at the seedling stage.

Energy gets high priority

Oregonians soon will find useful information about energy more readily available and on more topics.

The Oregon State University Extension Service this week announced a major addition to its formal educational programs that are conducted throughout the state.

"We have elevated energy to what we call 'program area' status," said Extension Director Henry Wadsworth. Other programs areas are agriculture, forestry, marine resources, 4-H youth, home economics and community development.

The last major program area to be added was marine resources, when OSU was named in 1968 to be one of the country's first sea grant centers.

"Energy is a program whose time has come," Wadsworth said. "First, because OSU Extension is Oregon's arm of a national effort to encourage more efficient use of energy and use of alternate energy sources."

OSU Extension last month received \$355,000 from the Oregon and U.S. Departments of Energy to be the state's "Energy Extension Service." Every state will have an Energy Extension Service, but it may not be part of the state's regular Extension service, said Wadsworth.

The Oregon Department of Energy and OSU worked jointly to develop a state plan. Among 40 states not part of an earlier pilot project, Oregon was the first in the nation to receive

federal approval for its plan.

"Another reason that we're putting extra emphasis on energy is the needs of our clients. We're just concluding an intensive effort to identify what people feel are important needs for practical information to help them solve problems.

"Time after time, energy heads the list," Wadsworth said.

Extension's energy education will concentrate on a four-part program recommended by a statewide advisory committee that helped define it. The four parts are energy management for small business, energy-efficient building practices for builders and contractors, a "Master Conservator" volunteer program to provide sources of reliable information on energy and a consumer response activity to answer questions.

So far, the staff of the new program area consists of a program leader in Corvallis and six Extension agents, just recruited.

The new program leader is Owen Osborne, an electrical engineer. Osborne joined the OSU faculty in 1971 as an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering.

For several years, he was part of a team employed on a Rockefeller Foundation grant. That project developed a simulation model of Oregon's growth. Osborne worked with Oregon business and political leaders who assisted in designing and using the simulation model.

When the six Extension agents begin work in the next few weeks, they will be assigned to six counties: Clackamas, Coos, Deschutes, Jackson, Lane and Washington.

"Of course, those agents will be the focus of our newest effort in energy," Wadsworth said, "but the rest of our agents around the state and specialists here on campus have been making energy a part of their teaching for some time now."

"You can't teach agriculture or forestry or home economics — or practically any other subject — without coming to grips with energy," Wadsworth said. He said there are a number of Extension publications on such subjects as insulation, heat pumps, energy in the home, and other topics. Publications are available through the local offices of the OSU Extension Service.

KNOW SOMEONE NEW TO THE AREA?

Call Newcomers Service Our Greeters provide important community information

— and — complimentary coupons for gifts and services from local businesses



297-3346

NEWCOMERS SERVICE

Your community reps. Since 1928 Betty Wolf, 668-6881, Ruby Eliason, 668-8392

ARE YOU SICK AND TIRED
of being sick and tired?
Want to do something about it?
WE CAN HELP

- Physical exams
- Laboratory diagnosis
- Nutritional counseling
- Natural childbirth

CALL TODAY
PORTLAND NATUROPATHIC CLINIC
A teaching clinic of the National College of Naturopathic Medicine
510 S.W. 3rd/4th Floor/226-3717



Senior up-date

by VIVIENNE BODEAU

ELDERS HELP ENERGY FIGHT

Energy programs are especially important to the elderly poor because they must spend four times as great a percentage of their small incomes for energy as do other people with incomes above the poverty level.

It follows as night does the day that the higher the cost of energy the less there will be to spend for food, clothing and housing, the basic needs of life. However, it is the men and women who are now older who can teach others about efficient energy utilization because in their lifetime they have gone through the Great Depression and World War II (not to mention two other wars).

During the 1930's fortunes were wiped out overnight and jobs disappeared hourly. The rationing of gasoline, food and clothing during WWII taught valuable lessons that are being again put into practice today. It is the older American who is leading the way in turning down thermostats in the winter and up in the summertime to conserve energy, driving less to save gasoline and cooking several foods at one time to use less gas and electricity.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteers are helping low-income elderly residents conduct home energy and safety surveys. Volunteers determine where heat is leaking around doors and windows, estimate repair costs and suggest where inexpensive materials can be purchased. Other RSVP projects offer assistance in weatherizing homes and constructing

solar heating systems. If you are among those who can use some aid of some kind, contact your county or state senior or elder affairs and inquire about their local program.

FOOD RECOVERY

If you haven't heard of this food recovery program you should and if there isn't one in your area, maybe you can be instrumental in starting one through your RSVP or Senior Center or even as a community project.

Through a "crop recovery" program, farmers, neighborhood gardens and community gardens give surplus produce to be used for community-wide distribution. For example, in Moses Lake, Wash., last year one man donated 100,000 ears of corn which he couldn't use. In three days, RSVP distributed the corn throughout the Eastern and Western parts of the state. We have heard of apple growers in Virginia and other places who will give away bushels of fruit if someone will come and pick them rather than let them rot.

Another form of food recovery is to gather up dated shelf items in supermarkets. Usually several types of day-old merchandise is discarded. Arrangements can be made through an RSVP program or another project to pick up these goods for distribution to the community where needed or wanted. (Check your local laws on this.)

So much food is thrown away. All it takes is a little organization to get bushels of food . . . all for free! . . . for those who find it difficult to buy food for an adequate diet.

(c) 1980 Suburban Features

CLASSIFIED

The Sandy Post Classified

WANT TO MAKE SOME EXTRA MONEY? WHY NOT SELL YOUR UNUSED ARTICLES IN THE SANDY POST CLASSIFIEDS? JUST ONE SIMPLE CALL TO OUR HELPFUL "AD-VISORS" AND YOUR AD WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT SANDY POST. BRINGING YOU THE RESULTS YOU WANT! WHY NOT CALL 667-6633 AND SEE HOW EASY IT CAN BE?

The Sandy Post