

Bulbs & Bulblets

Official Croft Lily Growers News Items

Fertilizing Land Mostly Overdone

Considerable has been said on the subject: "Soil Testing and Plant Feeding." The field men of bureau of nursery service are frequently approached with the request to obtain a soil analysis for a certain piece of ground. This is a natural request. However, there are certain obstacles in the way and an explanation will show the limitations and difficulties encountered. In most cases a soil analysis would be secondary to other guides of a practical nature. Dr. R. E. Stephenson, of Oregon State College, give full explanation of this subject.

The spurway soil tests are used by certain soils people and they do give fairly accurate determination of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. The equipment needed is rather expensive and the chemical reagents used deteriorate rapidly and must be replaced often.

There are other methods of soil analysis. This test and other tests give both available and unavailable nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. Of more importance to the grower is an indication of the available plant food. Proper physical condition of the soil makes for proper aeration, water holding capacity and biological activity, which in turn liberate some of the unavailable plant food.

Where there is a soil with a good supply of plant food in an

unavailable form, also a good humus content and proper soil aeration and reaction for beneficial microorganisms, then what would be the result of a heavy application of nitrogen just as you were coming into a warm weather condition?

One would have the amount of fertilizer applied plus the amount that was becoming available from the activity of air, water and organisms on the soil particles. This would be an undetermined amount but could be gauged somewhat by a knowledge of the crop history and humus content of the soil, such as barnyard manure or cover crop. Now as a result of this extra high plant food factor a very excellent growth would be afforded, unless overdone.

Right here a first injurious reaction should be mentioned. Plants take their food in by osmosis which is a stronger solution within the plant root than exists in the soil. Therefore if one applies fertilizer to the amount of creating a stronger solution in the soil than exists in the plant one will tend to reverse the movement of moisture from the plant, and injury will result.

Again, suppose there is an off weather condition of extremely cold or warm, when the plant is in this highly stimulated condition of growth. It is then possible to have a yellowing or distortion develop with a serious loss of production. Sometimes such a stimulation results in poor fruit set. The vegetative growth factor is out of balance with maturity

and seed formation.

Plants respond in various manners to this influence of overfeeding. Some are injured less easily than others. In all cases, at least where the flower or seed is an end product, a balanced nutrition is essential. Phosphorus and potash should be applied along with the minor elements.

A knowledge of the soil history relative to crops, commercial fertilizers and cover crops has been mentioned as a guide. A further study of the demands of the particular crop is valuable.

There is a need for special caution about applying fertilizer. It is safer to have a well-prepared and fertilized soil at time of the planting than to count on sidedressing. Side dressing may give excellent results. When the plant has adjusted to a growing condition its re-adjustment to added plant food may be detrimental to proper flower or seed production.

Bulb Prices Set At Coos Bay Meeting, Tues.

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inspections also will be made of all grading plants.

In setting these prices and to stabilize the industry, prices were set so that growers could not underbid jobbers in sale to the greenhouses. A substantial discount to jobbers will be allowed on orders of over 500 cases, to amount to something like 10%.

Several jobbers, present after prices had been established, said they were glad growers had voluntarily taken these steps, as it would do more than anything else to make Croft lily growing a profitable and stable industry.

Every grower is urged to pay strict attention to grade and the prices as set, inasmuch as the future of the industry hangs upon the adherence to this action taken at Coos Bay. Growers present felt that the directors of the Co-op, especially Mark C. Cotton, have performed an outstanding service for the industry.

Organization Meeting Is Set

Delegates of all lily growers associations, of Washington, Oregon and California, are invited to attend an organization meeting of Pacific Lily Growers, Inc., set for May 23 at Coos Bay. The Pacific Lily Growers is the overall organization, destined for the educational aid of the growers.

Some ten different associations sent delegates to the Tuesday meeting at Coos Bay.

Among local growers attending the Coos Bay meeting were: A. E. Sandbo and H. T. James, as representatives of the Croft Lily Growers Association, Ray Streubing, and Mrs. May Stafford. All returned Wednesday, feeling much had been accomplished.

Picnic Is Planned By P.-T. A. For May 22

Plans for the P.-T. A. picnic, on Wednesday, May 22, at noon, at Azalea park, have been completed, with all grade and high school students being invited. The plans were made by Mrs. Jack Young and Mrs. John Darger.

Since the affair is to be pot luck, everyone is asked to bring food. Prizes will be given for winners in races and games. All parents who can come, are urged to come with their children.

Messrs Paul Jones and Louis H. Craver, both of Klamath Falls, were recent business visitors in Brookings, stopping at the home of Mr. Craver's sister, Mrs. Walter Jones.

See "Pete" for your every insurance need. Lesmeister Agency. FOR SALE—1939 4-wheel drive G. M. C. truck. Present mileage 28,000. Practically all new tires. \$1100 cash. R. E. Simmons, Brookings. m16*

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Friday and Saturday, May 10-11—

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With Gary Cooper, Merle Oberon and Walter Brennan, plus a cartoon.

Sunday and Monday, May 12 and 13—

● Matinee at 2 p. m. Sunday ●

"Capt. Kidd"

With Charles Laughton, Randolph Scott and John Carradine—plus a cartoon.

Wednesday and Thursday, May 16 and 17—

**"THE TALK
OF THE TOWN"**

With Jean Arthur, Cary Grant and Ronald Coleman.