

## Frosts Continue To Chill Area; Still Is Warmest Of 'West'

While this area continues to experience frost almost every morning, comparison of the local temperatures with those of any in the entire western bank of states is convincing enough for any skeptic.

California, the state which has long sold its sunshine and warm climate, is digging out from under the heaviest snow of the past two decades, with citrus and a number of other crops which are usually ready for winter markets lying in total ruin.

Local daffodil growers are the hardest hit, but most of them feel that the crop is put back several weeks more than it has suffered any devastating ruin.

Brookside Azalea & Bulb Farm lost some tender azalea plants, exposed to the elements. Mr. Grootendorst, while he doesn't figure all plants killed, he said that most of them had suffered a year's growth. The azaleas he propagates are of the evergreen variety, not the deciduous kind seen in Azeal State Park.

Rare are the reports of any lily planting being any more than "nipped."

Many growers, by good fortune, covered the tender plants early in December, and thus any great damage has been prevented to the crop.

## Weather Report

For the past week, ending on Sunday:

Sunday:	Max.	Min.	Rain
a.Jn. 17	50	39	.04
Jan. 18	51	37	....
Jan. 19	48	34	....
Jan. 20	47	34	....
Jan. 20	47	30	....
Jan. 21	40	32	1.47
Jan. 22	48	33	.18
Jan. 23	48	28	....
Rain for week			1.91

## Snows Scourae Of California Drivers

Following their return to the area from the Bay Area, where they have been since Dec. 15, Mr. and Mrs. Ed F. Ackley told the Pilot, Saturday that Friday was a hectic day for motorists

between Orick and Klamath. Wet snow, to varying depth, together with heavy traffic was attributed to the scores of cars being in the ditch. A logging truck pulled the Ackleys up a long hill, from where they negotiated the remainder of the distance with no more trouble.

"From Ukiah, almost to Crescent city, the snow hampered all motor vehicles. The situation is much worse than anyone might imagine.

"This area certainly looked good to us," they claimed, "and we will certainly appreciate being here all the more."

## LOCAL NEWS

Fred Gleeson, representative for Carter-Rice Paper Co., of Portland, was a business visitor in Brookings, Friday. The snow, between here and Carpenterville, prevented him and four other motorists from making the trip toward Coos Bay that evening. All were able to make the trip Saturday, after the state highway crew had cleared the road.

Interior work at the Eric Ask home is about completed, with painting about done. As soon as all wiring is completed the house will be ready for occupancy.

## COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES Seen For Blueberries in CURRY COUNTY By George D. Asdel

This is the second in a series of articles on blueberries, the first of which was published last week.

The many domestic and test plantings of blueberries in Curry county have shown that they can be successfully grown here and their shipping qualities make it possible to ship them to the big population centers with existing transportation facilities. Present marketing conditions coupled with a future market that apparently will be very stable and easily expanded has encouraged a number of Curry county farmers to enlarge their present acreage to start new commercial blue berry fields.

Blueberries are expected to become a major crop in their own right and will also be extensively used as a diversification crop by cranberry growers, dairymen and bulb growers.

The following information has been gained through personal experience and from extensive correspondence and conversations with the principal growers and college experts of Oregon and Washington as well as visits to various commercial plantings — and experiment stations.

Any soil suitable for growing rhododendrons, laurels, or azaleas will grow blueberries. The essential soil requirements are:

1. At least slightly acid — a pH of 4.5 to 6.0 with 5 to 5.5 being ideal.

2. The soil should be loose; soils that are too heavy and pack hard prevent the growth of roots and do not allow the penetration of enough air.

3. Large amounts of organic matter should be present. This prevents packing and supplies plant food and may be provided in many ways including mulches and cover crops.

Blueberries are being commercially grown on a wide range of soil types from deep peat to black muck and glade lands (locally used for cranberries) to sandy or silt loams. One small planting west of Corvallis is doing well on hill top clay that was loosened by mixing into it large amounts of sawdust. The basic requirements can be met on many soils by proper use of fertilizers, cover crops and irrigation.

Irrigation is usually required as blueberries do best with more moisture than is required by most other berries. Both ditch and the sprinkler systems are being used with good results. Many local sites are kept sufficiently moist by seepages, however, these should be well drained. Standing water does not harm them while dormant but the water table should be 14 inches or lower during the growing season.

Minimum spacing recommended for commercial use is rows eight feet apart with plants six feet apart, giving 908 plants per acre. Closer spacing makes cultivation, picking and pruning difficult when plants are mature. Wider spacing is used by some. However, this reduces the yield per acre more than seems warranted by any saving made in time and labor. Nearly all the plantings in Curry county have been set out without sufficient space between the plants, making transplanting some of the plants necessary. This should be avoided in all new plantings.

A great many varieties are available but only the new, proven varieties are recommended for home and commercial use. These include:

Jersey—Being extensively used in new plantings; late season, large berry which ships well, has

good flavor; bush is erect, vigorous and heavy yielding.

Stanley—Berry has outstanding flavor and appearance, early season; bush is erect and vigorous.

Dixi—Has exceptionally large berry of good quality and flavor; early season, bush is spreading and vigorous.

Pemberton—Largest bush, also vigorous and erect; berries are large and flavorful; mid-season.

Atlantic—Exceptionally large berry with superior shipping qualities; heavy yields; spreading bush, mid-season.

Rubel—Recommended for the home gardens because of its hardness, heavy yield and tart flavor; very good for home cooking; small berries, late season, erect bush. Not recommended for commercial use except on a limited scale for processing.

Several varieties should be planted to assure good pollination and to lengthen the season. In this way the picking load will be spread over a period of about six weeks and will require much less crew.

The so-called seedlings and unnamed hybrids should be avoided as they do not measure up to standards—otherwise they'd be named and released through normal channels. Care must be taken to base our blueberry in-

dustry on berries of proven flavor and quality and size in order to maintain an expanding market. The use of varieties bearing large fruit will probably avoid the need of grading for the fresh market in the future.

The next article on blueberries will discuss cultivation, fertilizers, pruning, yields, marketing, diseases and pests, cost of planting, etc., and will appear in next week's issue.



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