

# The Redmond Spokesman

Published at the "Hub City" of Central Oregon

VOL. 3. No. 5

REDMOND, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1912

\$1.50 PER YEAR

## THE CULTIVATION AND IRRIGATION OF POTATOES

### Primary Requisites

The primary requisites for the best potato culture are, deeply pulverized, cool, medium sandy loam soil, with a good supply of organic matter holding much capillary moisture and rich in potash, deep and early planting, level culture, frequent moisture, conserving tillage, and spraying where necessary to insure healthy foliage.

### Culture to Control Moisture

In most cases a heavy yield of potatoes is mainly a question of moisture. Whether under irrigation or dry farming, early and frequent tillage should be given the potato land to release plant food, prevent loss of moisture through weeds, and maintain a dirt mulch for conserving moisture. Harrowing is cheap cultivation and the lever harrow should be used immediately after the planter to level the soil and lessen the evaporating surface area. A second harrowing should be given when the plants begin to come up, and a third when the rows are well in view or after any heavy rain that causes crusting. Harrowing should be done in the warm part of the day to avoid scattering fungus disease and breaking off vines.

The one or two horse cultivator should follow after the harrowing period. In the Greely district of Colorado the two horse cultivator follows the planter ridges before the potatoes come up to give a close, deep cultivation and is followed by the harrow. The cultivator should be used about every ten days, or say

three times before the blooming period and always after irrigation as soon as the soil is dry enough to crumble to leave the surface mulched and but slightly hilled along the rows.

### Irrigation

Spring rain fall is usually sufficient to bring the plants up and grow them till the tubers begin to form if carefully conserved, but a moderate irrigation, say three acre-inches, or the equivalent of three inches rainfall, on the sandier soils before planting will cause better growth and protect against frost. The amount of later irrigation is a matter of experience and must be determined by the weather and the actual moisture condition prevailing about the plant roots. The per cent of slope affects methods and amount of irrigation. An ideal slope would be about one per cent or fifty feet per mile. Steeper slopes require more shallow furrows and a smaller stream in each furrow for a greater time. Flat land requires shorter runs and more leveling and attention in irrigating. Control these conditions by running the potato rows diagonally or on a contour if necessary, and by varying the head in each furrow according to the slope.

In irrigating, the water should run nearly clear to avoid eroding and puddling, and should be applied in a fairly sharp, deep furrow so the potatoes will be moistened by quick action rather than by lateral percolation which causes the dirt above

the tubers to puddle and set. A larger head may be used per furrow to wet down nearly to the lower end and then the water cut down and set so it will just be used up by the time it reaches the tail furrow.

With constant attention there should be no run off, and leaving the water in furrows about 23 hours will give a two or three acre inch irrigation on an average soil. Where more than two irrigations are applied, it is best to irrigate every other space between rows and alternate at succeeding irrigations.

Crop	Irrigation treatment acre inches	Yield per acre	Gain in Bu. over dry plat	Gain in Bu. per acre
Potatoes, two 2 1/2 in. irrigations		249.7	195.5	21.1
Potatoes, one 5 in. irrigation		190.9	55.8	11.2
Potatoes, unirrigated		135.1		
Potatoes, three 1 in. irrigations		250.9	115.8	28.6
Potatoes, two 3 in. irrigations		258.1	123.0	29.5
Potatoes, three 2 in. irrigations		254.9	119.8	29.0
Potatoes, three 3 in. irrigations (applied at 23 per cent soil moisture content)		292.5	157.4	17.5
Potatoes, two 3 in. irrigations (applied at 20 per cent soil moisture content)		308.5	173.4	28.9
Potatoes, one 3 in. irrigation (applied at 17 per cent soil moisture content)		176.4	41.3	15.8

About 50 bushels more potatoes secured by applying the five acre-inches at two irrigations instead of one, but, six acre-inches made four bushels more applied in two instead of three irrigations. Three 1 inch irrigations gave most economical increase per acre inch, and the two 3-inch irrigations applied when the average moisture content of the first two feet dropped to the twenty per cent point gave the heaviest yield. Irrigations should not be given after the 15th of August if the highest quality of product is to be obtained. The writer had composite analyses and extensive cooking tests made

Experiments conducted for the Oregon Experiment Station by the writer, conditions that will apply here, indicate that two light irrigations will be better than one heavy irrigation, as potatoes must be kept growing at a uniform rate to avoid "second growth." Furthermore, these results which follow indicate that five or six-acre inches should be about the most economical amount to use.

Results of irrigation experiments Oregon Experiment Station, Agronomy Dept., 1911:

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from each of the above plats and found that up to five and six acre-inches there was practically no difference in composition or palatability in irrigated or non irrigated potatoes. The heavier latter irrigations increased the moisture content and therefore decreased the per cent of solids and lessened the keeping quality, and it will be noticed that the nine acre inches gave lower yield than the six acre inches. If the proper soil moisture content prevails, it matters not whether maintained by irrigation or rainfall.

W. L. POWERS, Supt. Crook Co. Demonstration Farms.

## GO TO PORTLAND

(VIA)

The Direct Way



The Quick Way

### THROUGH SERVICE

BETWEEN

### CENTRAL OREGON POINTS

MERITS YOUR PATRONAGE

NO CHANGE OF CARS—ALL TRAINS ARRIVE AT AND DEPART FROM UNION DEPOT, PORTLAND  
Train leaves Redmond 7:15 a. m., arriving Portland Union Depot 5:30 p. m. Returning leaves Portland 7:50 a. m., or 10:00 a. m., arriving Redmond 7:30 p. m.

For particulars apply to

H. BAUKOL, Agent, Redmond, Oregon.

### WHILE IN PORTLAND

VISIT NORTH BEACH

A cool, delightful Summer Resort on the shore of the Pacific Ocean.

Only a few pleasant hours down the Columbia from Portland.

Reached via O-W. R. & N. Steamers. T. J. POTTER out of Portland at 10:30 p. m., or THE HASSALO 8 p. m.

### NEW PRIZES FOR POTATO SHOW

The committee has added to the premium list a cash prize of \$25.00 for the best general display of farm products grown by an individual exhibitor. There will also be a second prize of \$10.00 provided there are four or more entries. This is free to all farmers in Crook county.

## "Farmers' Day" Aug. 17th

Supt. Powers of the Crook County Demonstration Farms, has sent out the following circular letter to farmers and others who are interested in the progress of the demonstration farms in the county:

REDMOND, OREGON, Aug. 6, 1912.

DEAR FRIEND:

Crops on the Oregon Agricultural Demonstration Farms at Metolius and Redmond are approaching maturity and in order that the farmers and citizens of Crook County may avail themselves of the opportunity of seeing the demonstrations before harvest, arrangements have been made with the College authorities for holding a "Farmers' Day" at the Irrigated Demonstration Farm near Redmond, on Saturday, August seventeenth.

Dr. James Withycombe, Director of State Experiment Stations; Prof. H. D. Scudder, probably President Kerr and one or two other members of the Experiment Station will be with the Business Men's Excursion from Portland, on the way to the Oregon Development League Convention, to be held at Lakeview, and will stop over to visit the Irrigated Demonstration Farm and deliver lectures at the Farmers' Institute in Redmond the evening of August seventeenth.

Farmers who wish may bring lunch for the evening meal and spread it under the junipers on the lawn at the Demonstration Farm. Drinking water and juniperade will be provided free.

You are cordially invited to visit the Demonstration Farms if possible, on the above date and attend the free lectures in the evening.

Very truly yours,

W. L. POWERS,

Supt. Demonstration Farms.

## SOON BEGIN WORK ON WATER PLANT

Word was received today that Contractors Jeffery and Bufftou of Portland, would arrive here this evening with a crew of men to begin work on the Redmond \$40,000 gravity water system. It is expected that the whole system will be completed in 90 days and water flowing through the mains for both domestic and fire purposes.

## GETTING STATISTICS ON OREGON FARMS

Director J. A. Bexell, of the Oregon Statistical Bureau at Corvallis, was here Monday and in talking over what the State Immigration Commission was doing, said he had been sending out the following circular to farmers throughout the state:

Dear Sir: The Oregon Statistical Bureau, in co-operation with the Agricultural College, is making a preliminary agricultural survey of a number of leading farms in every county in the state. The object of this survey is primarily to determine the opportunities in each locality for new settlers and, if possible, to find some of the difficulties in agricultural development.

A number of farms in your locality will be visited during the summer by Mr. E. W. Curtis and W. L. Powers, superintendent of the demonstration farms in Crook county.

Such questions as the following will be asked:

The value of land, machinery, stock on hand June 1; the acreage and yield of each crop in 1911; the

amount of these crops sold and the receipts; the amount of other farm products, such as milk, butter, eggs, fruit, etc., sold during the year and the receipts; the expenses for labor, seed, feed, fertilizer, machinery, threshing, etc.; the methods of cultivation used and your observation of the results.

As your answer will be used for the benefit of your community and of the entire state, accuracy of statement is of the utmost importance. All of the information received from you and your neighbors will be compiled in making up a final report on general conditions in your community. Your statement will be considered strictly confidential. The report of individuals will not be published without their consent.

We hope that the farmers will assist our representatives in securing the information desired and that in turn the college and the Immigration Commission may aid the farmers by giving advice to all those who wish the same.

### Real Estate Transfers

Among the recent real estate transfers in this city are:

Carl Shuholm to Clara Shuholm, lots 5 and 6, block 44, \$1.00.

Redmond Realty & Investment Co. to W. H. Hobbs, lot 4, blk. 19, First Addition to Redmond; lots 1 and 2, Mountain View Addition to Redmond, \$375.

F. I. Phoenix to Louis Dooner, lot

21, block 27, \$1.

Louis Dooner to Gertrude Goodfellow, lot 21, block 27, \$200.

Redmond Townsite Co. to Ben Gotter, lots 5 and 6, block 37, \$300.

Men everywhere seem to think their vote is a thing with which to "get even" with those who have in any remote way incurred their displeasure.