

Results of Fertility Experiments Announced. DELAY MAY CAUSE LOSS

Agricultural College Offers Series of Suggestions to Growers

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, April 18.—(Special)—Oregon fruit growers interested in maintaining the fertility of their orchard soils as an essential to continuing fruit production may now learn some of the most important results of fertility experiments that have engaged the attention of the experimental station at the agricultural college and the two branch stations at Hood River and Talent.

The disadvantage of delaying the fertility provisions till the penalty falls is indicated in the report as follows: "In orchard surveys made in two fruit districts in 1908 and 1909, attention was called to the fact that the need for growers to supply their soils with more organic matter and keep up the supply of nitrogen. Little attention was given to the advice, and as a result the orchards gradually deteriorated.

Crisis Caused by Neglect. "By 1912 a crisis arose. Low prices ruled in the market and coupled with the low prices many of the orchards were producing small yields of fruit, often of very poor quality. Many of the trees were thin and yellow. The bloom was poor, and there was a very small percentage of fruit. Much of the fruit was bitter, with the so-called fruit pit, or bitter pit, sometimes called core rot. The apples tended to be small, and many were colored, and the trees were being attacked by various functional troubles, such as little leaf, apple rot, and die-back, sometimes called winter-kill. The stations then took up the fertility questions in a large way, both with mixed fertilizers and nitrates. In general, most results from mixed fertilizers showed increase, while on many soils with certain classes of fruits the nitrates gave excellent results.

Hints Offered for Experiments. Choose a very typical area of the orchard, have at least a dozen trees for each fruit, many of the orchards quickly available salts and apply them at least a month before the trees bloom. Use the following amounts: 5 to 10 pounds per tree according to the size of the tree. For ordinary bearing apple trees five pounds should be sufficient for each tree. For large trees as much as 10 pounds may be desirable. Plot 1—Five to 10 pounds of nitrate of soda. Plot 2—Five to 10 pounds of sulfate of potash. Plot 3—Five to 10 pounds of superphosphate. Plot 4—Five to 10 pounds each of nitrate of soda and sulfate of potash. Plot 5—Five to 10 pounds each of nitrate of soda and superphosphate. Plot 6—Five to 10 pounds each of nitrate of soda, superphosphate and potash. Plot 7—From one to two tons ground limestone per acre. If response comes from any of these combinations, one will know what to buy to put on this orchard, and if he desires he can purchase on available salts more slowly.

It is particularly important that the nitrate be applied in the soil before it blooms, and that the salts are early dissolved, if response is expected the first year.

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MEETING NOTICES. FRIENDSHIP LODGE NO. 160, A. F. AND A. M.—Special communication, Monday, April 19, at 1:30 P. M.

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