

SCIENTIFIC FARMING

Extracts From Government Bulletin No. 266, by George H. Failyer, of the Bureau of Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The greater part of the water that falls as rain passes into the soil. The proportion that runs off without entering the soil varies with the compactness and inclination of the surface and the character of the rainfall. The water which does enter the soil passes downward, the free or gravitational water which forms visible liquid layers on the soil grains or occurs between them being pulled down by gravity. The water held by the soil particles against the force of gravity is called capillary water. It can not be seen as liquid water, but its presence may be recognized by its effect upon the color of the soil. If in too great quantity to be disposed of by capillarity, the rain water runs down into the lower soil and finally joins the so-called ground water, also called bottom water, or permanent water, raising its level temporarily. In drying weather the capillary water evaporates from the surface of the soil, the soil drawing more water from below but in insufficient quantity wholly to replace that lost by evaporation, and there is, therefore, a continual decrease in the content of capillary water until the next rainfall. The free or permanent water may rise into the soil as capillary water to replace that lost by evaporation, and it is constantly running out of the soil into the natural drainage channels as spring and seepage waters. These several motions of water all take place when the rainfall is sufficient to an excess over what the soil can hold in what has been called the capillary state.

If the surface soil be open and loose, heavy rains completely fill the pore spaces of the upper soil. When the pulverized layer is thin, it often becomes so soft and filled with water that this loose layer washes and greatly injures a field.

THE IDEAL TILTH

It is from capillary water that agricultural plants, for the most part, obtain the water necessary for their growth. In order that they make their best development, the soil must be in such physical condition that the roots of plants can readily penetrate it and ramify through it; it must contain sufficient capillary water to supply the needs of the plants; and this water must be renewed as it is taken up. There should be no large air spaces, since these cause the soil to dry out readily and prevent the development of the fine branching rootlets necessary to the best development of plants. It is somewhat difficult to describe in words this proper mechanical condition of the soil. It is porous but not loose, firm but not hard nor consolidated; close-grained but not run together nor adhesive. The ideal condition is that of a good loamy soil which has been thoroughly pulverized when in best condition as to moisture and has then been firmed by pressure. The pulverizing breaks the soil into granules which the pressure brings close together without destroying them. The soil still has a mealy or crumbly texture. In such a soil the roots of plants make their best development. In such a soil, too, beneficial bacterial life finds its most favorable environments. Such a soil will take up and hold the most water, not as water is held in a dish but rather as it is held in a sponge. It is free to move under capillary forces and yet it does not exclude the air, nor interfere with any of the vital, chemical, or physical processes in the soil but is conducive to them. The capillary water in such a soil and the mineral nutrients it contains are readily reached and absorbed by the extending roots of plants.

The soil as a whole is generally drier when the crop matures than it was at seeding time. In this case all the rainfall during the growing season has been lost from the soil by drainage and by evaporation from the soil and from the crop, and some of the water already in the soil at seeding time has likewise been lost. This being true, a condition of soil that will take up the greater proportion of the rainfall and will dispose of it as capillary water is to be desired.

Proper tillage has two important effects. First, the soil is brought into the desirable condition already described, so that there will be a deep, mellow, but firm seed and root bed to absorb and store the rainfall and to prepare plant food, and, second, the loss of water by evaporation from the soil is prevented as far as possible. The operations of tillage may be considered under two heads—the preparation of the seed bed, and the cultivation of the growing crop. In general, plowing is the most important of the seed bed, since it is universally applicable.

WHEN GROUND SHOULD BE PLOWED

For some crops the soil may be plowed immediately before planting and good results will be secured. This is true of corn. Wheat on the other hand, especially winter wheat, requires a firm soil into which to send its roots, and plowing should not precede seeding by too short an interval. The soil should have time to settle before seeding. Heavy rains settle the soil, but since drier weather prevails in early autumn there is danger that the plowed soil will not thoroughly settle. When wheat or other fall crops are to follow a crop which is harvested in early or middle summer, and the ground is to be plowed for the wheat, the plowing should be done as soon after harvest as the condition of the farm work will permit, and the ground should then be smoothed with a harrow to reduce evaporation of the soil moisture.

Weeds use large quantities of water. Aside from the ill effects they have, much of their injury to crops in which they grow is due to their appropriating the soil water. Where water is of any agricultural value weeds should not be allowed to grow. If stubble ground be left to grow up in weeds it dries out excessively. The early plowing urged above kills weeds and prepares the ground to absorb any that come, and the freshly plowed and harrowed soil will not lose water so rapidly as the stubble ground.

If land is to be planted in the spring late fall plowing has certain advantages. It may be done after the removal of a late-maturing crop. If the subsoil be turned up in the fall the freezing and thawing and general weathering will improve it. If rough as left by the plow the soil will absorb rains and melting snows and crumble down into good condition and will not be so likely to run together as if smoothed by the harrow. Such fall-plowed ground will generally be in good shape for small grain seeded in the spring. The disc may be used if necessary. If corn is to be grown on fall-plowed land it should be thoroughly disked and harrowed unless the corn is planted with the lister. In case there be heavy rains before corn-planting time heavy soils will run together and cake. The disk run over these as soon as the surface has dried sufficiently will keep them in condition. In general, the disk should be used if there a considerable interval between plowing and planting. In using the disk, lap half way to level the surface.

TO RETAIN MOISTURE

If the soil reservoir has been well prepared and rains have filled it with capillary water, tillage should be directed to reducing the loss of water by evaporation to the lowest possible point. The water that passes through the plants themselves is of benefit to the crop; that evaporating directly from the soil is wholly lost. In spite of all that can be done there will be losses from the soil in drying weather but these may be materially reduced.

A loose soil with large pores has low capillary power and will absorb but little water from a moist soil in contact with it, therefore a layer of such loose soil covering the moist-soil reservoir will conserve the water in the latter by diminishing direct evaporation from it. It is well established by the experience of farmers as well as by direct experiments that a layer of loose dry soil 3 or 4 inches deep is effective in preventing the excessive drying of soils. If this mulch be maintained through the season by proper cultivation it is more beneficial than a straw mulch. In the course of a long dry period it has been found to conserve the moisture as well as a straw mulch, and there are several advantages with the latter. If put on early, the straw mulch keeps the surface soil wet in the spring and early summer. This makes the soil cold, excludes the air, and causes plants to rot near the surface. When this surface soil dries out, these roots cannot supply water and the crop suffers. The soil mulch and the cultivation to produce it cause the plants to root deeply, the aeration of the soil is improved, and in all respects the effects of the dust mulch are good. To be most effective the surface tillage must be kept up. The soil must be cultivated after each rain of sufficient amount to puddle the surface—that is, cause it to run together and form a crust on drying.

Experience has shown that the rapid and complete drying of the surface which ensues in some portions of the semi-arid region forms a mulch which serves to reduce evaporation from the deeper soil. In some cases it has been claimed to be as effective as that pro-

duced tillage, but it is less certain and should not be relied on. Therefore in dry farming in the West, as well as in farming under humid conditions, tillage to produce and maintain a dust mulch should be the universal practice. It is usual to speak of a "dust-mulch," but the better mulch has a granular structure and is not composed of dust. In open countries the dust would blow off, to the detriment of the soil, and a dust surface would not absorb the rainfall so readily as that composed of very small lumps of soil.

TOOLS USED IN CULTIVATION

The implements employed in cultivation will vary somewhat with the crop and with its stage of growth. Tillage of ground before the crop is up and when the plants are very small, especially listed crops, should be with the spike-tooth harrow with the teeth set at a considerable slant. Weeds are most easily destroyed when they are coming up. The harrow is very useful for this purpose, and at the same time it produces the soil mulch. A distinct advantage in the use of the harrow is the rapidity with which the ground may be gone over. The spike-tooth harrow, or the disk harrow followed by the spike-tooth harrow, should also be used in summer culture intended to conserve moisture for a future crop. When the plants are too large to be cultivated with the harrow, any of the modern double cultivators will do good work in cultivating corn and similar crops, but when equipped with three to five gangs of narrow shovels that throw the soil but little, they are still more efficient for surface cultivation, unless the ground has become weedy from inability to cultivate it because of wet weather. Blade-like shovels that run nearly horizontal and cut off this thin layer of soil are effective unless there be too much trash. These blades can be so adjusted that the soil will pass over them, forming a loose layer, which on drying will protect the moist soil below.

The disk harrow and the spike-tooth harrow have already been suggested for certain kinds of work. No better tools need be desired for the work for which they are designed. They are made in sizes for two horses and for four horses. In using the disk harrow it should be lapped half way in order to leave a level surface. Disks 14 to 16 inches in diameter do better work than those of greater diameter, but the draft is heavier. Except in special cases, double cultivators, or 2-row cultivators, should be used. Single cultivators are useful in cultivating crops that have become too tall for the double cultivator and in small areas, as in truck farming, but no tool of less capacity than the double cultivator should be generally employed in field work.

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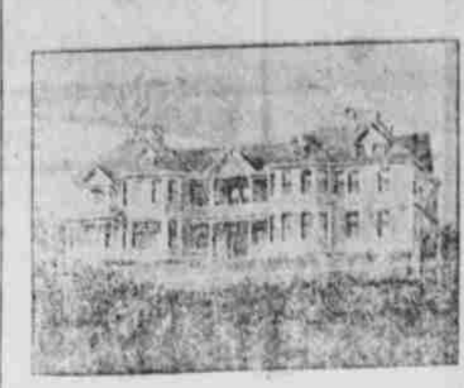
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Leave		Arrive
2:15 p.m.	Biggs	11:00 a.m.
2:30 p.m.	Gilbeaux	11:15 a.m.
2:45 p.m.	Sinks	11:30 a.m.
3:00 p.m.	Wasco	11:45 a.m.
3:15 p.m.	Klondike	12:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m.	Summit	12:15 p.m.
3:45 p.m.	Hay Cc	12:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m.	Melons	12:45 p.m.
4:15 p.m.	De Moss	1:00 p.m.
4:30 p.m.	Moro	1:15 p.m.
4:45 p.m.	Erskineville	1:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m.	Grass Valley	1:45 p.m.
5:15 p.m.	Bourbon	2:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.	Kent	2:15 p.m.
5:45 p.m.	Wileox	2:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.	Shaniko	2:45 p.m.
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CONTEST NOTICE
Department of the Interior,
U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon,
January 11, 1907.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by
Louis A. Reed, contestant,
against homestead entry No. 12,887, made June 2, 1905, for Lots 1, 2, 3, sec. 2, tp. 12 s., r. 10 e., sec. 34, sec. 35, tp. 11 s., r. 10 e., w. m., by Henry Gross, contestant, in which it is alleged that said entry Gross has wholly abandoned said tract for more than six months last past; that said tract is not settled upon and cultivated by said party as required by law; that said alleged absence was not due to his employment in the army, navy or marine corps of the United States in time of war.
Said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence, testifying and at a hearing to be held at 10 o'clock a. m. on March 2, 1907, before Warren Brown, county clerk, at his office in Prineville, Oregon, and that final decree will be rendered at such hearing. The Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in The Dalles, Oregon.
The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit filed December 15, 1906, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice can not be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878. Notice for Publication.

U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Or.,
November 12, 1906.
Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, Jacob B. Merrill,

of Prineville, county of Crook, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 3500, for the purchase of the swamp, ne. 1/4 sec 22 and n. 1/4 sec 27, tp. 11 s., r. 10 e., w. m.

And will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the County Clerk at Prineville, Oregon, on the 8th day of February, 1907.

He names as witnesses: Katy M. Merrill, of Prineville, Oregon; J. M. Street and Melissa Street, of Sisters, Oregon; and C. A. Cline, of Lower Bridge, Oregon.
Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 8th day of February, 1907.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Or.,
November 14, 1906.
Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, Elijah H. Sparks,

of Lower Bridge, county of Crook, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 3505, for the purchase of the swamp, e. 1/2 sec 32 and s. 1/2 sec 34, sec 29, tp. 11 s., r. 10 e., w. m.

And will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the County Clerk at Prineville, Oregon, on the 8th day of February, 1907.

He names as witnesses: L. E. Allingham, of Prineville, Oregon; and A. G. Allingham, W. A. Foley and Frank Boddy, all of Lower Bridge, Oregon.
Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 8th day of February, 1907.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Or.,
November 14, 1906.
Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, E. J. Sparks,

of Lower Bridge, county of Crook, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 3506, for the purchase of the swamp, e. 1/2 sec 32 and s. 1/2 sec 34, sec 29, tp. 11 s., r. 10 e., w. m.

And will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the County Clerk at Prineville, Oregon, on the 8th day of February, 1907.

He names as witnesses: L. E. Allingham, of Prineville, Oregon; and A. G. Allingham, W. A. Foley and Frank Boddy, all of Lower Bridge, Oregon.
Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 8th day of February, 1907.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Or.,
November 26, 1907.
Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, the following named persons have filed in this office their sworn statements to wit:

Male N. Carney, of Portland, county of Multnomah, state of Oregon, sworn statement No. 3710, filed December 21, 1906, for the purchase of the swamp, sec 27, ne 1/4 sec 28 and n. 1/4 sec 24, tp. 12 s., r. 10 e., w. m.

George A. Jones, of Seattle, county of King, state of Washington, sworn statement No. 3667, filed December 3, 1906, for the purchase of the swamp, sec 30, n. 1/2 sec 31 and n. 1/4 sec 32, tp. 11 s., r. 10 e., w. m.

And will offer proof to show that the lands sought are more valuable for the timber or stone thereon than for agricultural purposes, and to establish their claims to said lands before the Register and Receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on April 2, 1907.

They name as witnesses: George A. Jones of Seattle, Washington; Cora A. Jones, Charles Brock, William Brock and Mrs. T. V. Carney, of Bend, Oregon; Male N. Carney, of Portland, Oregon.
Any and all persons claiming adversely any of the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 2d day of April, 1907.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Department of the Interior,
Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon,
January 24, 1907.
Notice is hereby given that Elizabeth Richards, of Madras, Oregon, has filed notice of her intention to make final five year proof in support of her claim, viz:

Homestead entry No. 10,379, made February 10, 1902, for the swamp, sec 5 and n. 1/4 sec 8, tp. 12 s., r. 10 e., w. m.

And that said proof will be made before Frank Osborn, U. S. Commissioner at his office in Madras, Oregon, on March 5, 1907.

She names the following witnesses to prove her continuous residence upon and cultivation of the land, viz:

R. V. Jenkins, F. M. Gilliam, Robert Barnett and E. Banta, all of Madras, Oregon.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon,
February 17, 1906.
Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, Lanchin McNeill,

of Centralia, county of Lewis, state of Washington, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 2831, for the purchase of the swamp, sec 12 and n. 1/4 sec 13, sec 14, tp. 12 s., r. 10 e., w. m.
And will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the Register and Receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on the 29th day of March, 1907.
He names as witnesses: Joseph Graham, Edward Graham and Kate McNeill, all of Sisters, Oregon; and Alice V. Harrison, of Centralia, Washington.
Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 29th day of March, 1907.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 Notice for Publication.

U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Or.,
September 11, 1906.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, John Rudolf Strum,

of Portland, county of Multnomah, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 3532, for the purchase of the swamp, sec 12 and n. 1/4 sec 13, sec 14, tp. 12 s., r. 10 e., w. m.

And will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the Register and Receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on the 29th day of February, 1907.

He names as witnesses: Ole Andrew Nelson, Carl Pridgen and Slinger, all of Portland, Oregon.
Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 29th day of February, 1907.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Department of the Interior,
Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon,
January 1, 1907.
Notice is hereby given that Nelson P. Sten, of Ashwood, Ore., has filed notice of his intention to make final five year proof of his claim, viz:

H. E. No. 974 made October 24, 1901, e. 1/2 sec 34, tp. 12 s., r. 10 e., w. m.
And that said proof will be made before the County Clerk at Prineville, Oregon, on February 9, 1907.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of the land, viz:

W. H. Hickey, of Prineville, Oregon; D. H. Huston, George Crockett and J. T. W. all of Ashwood, Oregon.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Public Land Sale,
United States Land Office,
The Dalles, Oregon, January 1, 1907.
Notice is hereby given that as directed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office under provisions of act of Congress approved June 27, 1906, Public Land Sale, we will offer at public sale to the highest bidder, at 2 p. m., on the 14th day of February next, at this office, the following tract of land, to wit:

The swamp, sec 24, tp. 12 s., r. 10 e., w. m.
Any persons claiming adversely above described lands are advised to file their claims or objections, on or before the above designated day of sale.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Or.,
November 21, 1906.
Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land by act of August 4, 1892,

of Sisters, county of Crook, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 3634, for the purchase of the swamp, sec 12, s. 10 e., and Lots 2 and 3, sec 7, s. 10 e., w. m.

And will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the County Clerk at Prineville, Oregon, on the 8th day of February, 1907.

He names as witnesses: E. H. Sp. Joe Graham, Guy Allingham, S. Sisters, Oregon; L. E. Allingham, Prineville, Oregon.
Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 8th day of February, 1907.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Or.,
November 8, 1906.
Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892,

of Bend, county of Crook, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 3573, for the purchase of the swamp, sec 6 and w. 1/2 sec 6, tp. 12 s., r. 10 e., w. m.

And will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the County Clerk at Prineville, Oregon, on the 8th day of February, 1907.

She names as witnesses: Charles Brock, Anna Johnson, John Johnson, Frank Butterworth, all of Bend, Oregon; and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 8th day of February, 1907.
MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 Notice for Publication.

U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Or.,
November 8, 1906.
Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, J. O. Connor,

of Redmond, county of Crook, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 3574, for the purchase of the swamp, sec 12 and n. 1/4 sec 13, sec 14, tp. 12 s., r. 10 e., w. m.

And will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the County Clerk at Prineville, Oregon, on the 9th day of February, 1907.

He names