

# Pep and Progress Pages



## FILBERT CULTURE AND THE HIGH SPOTS IN COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

In Immunity to Insect and Fungus Pests and to Damage from Weather Conditions the Filbert Enjoys Decided Advantages, and the Crop Is Easily Harvested and Compact; and the Area Where It Can Be Grown Is Limited—The Varieties Recommended.

(The following most interesting and instructive article appears in the January issue of the Oregon Grower, the magazine published by the Oregon Growers Cooperative association. It will have a wide distribution in that magazine, but it contains information that ought to be in the hands of every farmer in the whole Willamette valley. The author is a young man of both education and practical experience, and his experimentation has been in the groves of the pioneer in this industry in this part of the country; himself a man of culture, in addition to being a real "dirt farmer." It is fortunate for those engaging in the filbert industry now

is true; on the other hand, that it requires practically no cultivation whatever, which is likewise erroneous. The fact is that outside of certain traits which are more noticeable in the filbert than in most orchard trees and which require rather different methods of handling, it does not differ fundamentally from the other nuts and fruits grown in Oregon, and any other type of orchard should make a success of filberts.

### Know Your Crop

As I regard it, the key to any orchard success is to know the peculiarities of the crop you grow and adapt your orchard practices to them rather than buck them—in other words, get Nature on

of experimentation, both before and after the orchards were planted.

This was inevitable at the beginning because no one knew anything about the filbert, even the size it attained. This situation no longer exists. There is yet a great deal to be learned about filbert culture, but enough knowledge has been gained by those who pioneered the way to bring out the peculiarities of the crop and to lay out a simple, rational culture of the same. To give the writer's impression of this culture is the purpose of this article.

**Peculiarities of the Filbert**  
Bear in mind that the filbert is a cultivated relation of the wild hazel, one of the varieties of which grows profusely in western Oregon, and possesses many of its traits.

Its disposition is to throw suckers and to grow in a bush form, with luxuriant wood growth at the expense of the crop. In this one item, we must combat nature and by the removal of the suckers force the filbert to assume a tree form which it will readily do.

It has a distaste for wet feet and should never be planted in wet land. It requires cross pollination for commercial crops. This may seem at variance with the hazel but remember that most wild hazels are seedlings, and it will be seen that this is not the case. It is divided into three general classes which may be designated as self-husking, partially self-husking and non self-husking. As the nuts must be husked before marketing, other things being equal, a filbert which husks itself is to be desired, thus eliminating the cost of husking which runs at the very least calculation two cents a pound.

### Advantages Are Many

It also possesses certain other characteristics which are a decided advantage to us in Oregon, namely: an immunity to insect and fungous pests and to weather conditions which is enjoyed by no other crop raised here; an ability to yield heavy and regular crops; of a compact, non-perishable product; easily and cheaply harvested, transported and stored, for which there is a wide demand; and the area where they can be grown is limited to that part of the Pacific Northwest similar in climate to the Willamette valley, of itself an insurance against over-production.

Thus, the problems to be solved by the prospective planter are simple, but they are exceedingly important, and failure in filbert culture should be laid to ignorance or carelessness rather than to any difficulty inherent in the industry. A common sense observance of the following rules is a guarantee of success; soil must be suitable, proper varieties used for the main crop, pollination provided, suckers removed promptly, and adequate cultivation given.

**Location and Soil**  
The filbert is not particular as to exposure, slope or elevation within reasonable limits, but it does demand good drainage and should never be planted in wet land. Any good, well drained soil, hill or bottom, is suitable, from an extremely sandy soil to a heavy clay, as has been demonstrated in the groves of George A. Dorris of Springfield. The soil is but an incident, the future cultivation and care of that soil everything.

The filbert will do well at as great an elevation as the hazel will mature nuts, possibly a half deal higher than a commercial orchard will ever be planted. Nature, in making the filbert, surely had our misty climate with its occasional spring frosts in mind. In the 18 years of the Dorris experiments, during which time every other crop has had complete failures, the filbert has always produced a paying crop. The writer would never bother about exposure or elevation of the soil was reasonably rich and the drainage good. But do not plant in ground where the water level rises close to the surface and stands all winter.

### Varieties

There are probably as many varieties of filberts as there are of apples, but only a very few have been tried out in a commercial way in Oregon. It is probable that outside of the Barcelona, Du Chilly, Daviana, White Aveline and Red Aveline, there are no varieties available in sufficient quantities to plant two acres, however desirable they might be, so this heading will be confined to a discussion of the above varieties and devoted to the main crop and not to the pollenizers which follow.

The Barcelona is the only representative of the self-husking type, the Du Chilly and Daviana are of the partially self-husking type, while the two Avelines represent the non self-husking type. The Barcelona is a vigorous tree, and a regular and heavy bearer of a large, good quality nut; shell of medium thickness and well filled. It is admitted by practically every filbert authority as the only filbert worthy of consideration at present as the main crop variety.

The Du Chilly is a very fine nut but is not as vigorous a grower, nor as heavy or regular a bearer as the Barcelona. The Daviana is a very light bearer. Neither is self-husking and neither is as profitable as the Barcelona.

The White Aveline is an exceptionally fine, paper shell nut, one of the best. The tree is small but a prolific bearer. But it is non self-husking and in no sense a main crop variety. The Red Aveline is similar to the White in most respects, but it is not a vigorous tree, and has absolutely no place in the commercial grove.

The Barcelona should therefore comprise 85 to 90 per cent of the planting, the exact percentage being governed by the number of pollinizers it is desired to use. There being different opinions on this subject.

### Pollination is Necessary

Horticulturists generally, particularly cherry men, have recognized of late years that cross pollination is necessary for best results. It is so necessary in filberts that without it a commercial crop is an impossibility. There are isolated cases, usually of one or two trees, where fairly good yields have been obtained, seemingly without cross pollination. But the writer has yet to see a solid Barcelona planting, or any other for that matter, which has produced 10 per cent of what it normally should, and all experiments on hand pollination have failed to yield even a single nut; as the result of self-pollination. The writer feels he is standing on firm ground, with the best of scientific support, in making this statement, and can not urge too strongly upon prospective planters the necessity of cross pollination. It should be borne in mind, however, that not every variety of filbert will pollinize every other variety. There are a number of varieties which will pollinize the Barcelona to a greater or lesser extent, consequently the selection should be made with an eye to the adequate sure pollination of the grove, under all conditions, and with the greatest possible yield from the pollinizers themselves, which must also be cross pollinated.

### Plant Sufficient Pollinizers

Recent experiments in hand pollination by Prof. C. E. Schuster of the horticultural department of the Oregon agricultural college, have brought to light a number of good pollinizers for the Barcelona. However, it is useless to dwell upon those varieties which are not available in commercial quantities, and only the Du Chilly, Daviana, White Aveline, Chaperon and Clackamas will be considered.

Because of the difference in appearance of pollen, and in order to cross pollinate the pollinizers themselves and thus secure a yield from them, it is preferred to use more than one variety for this purpose. Our experience, both in the field and in an experimental way, has confirmed my previous belief in the Du Chilly, Daviana and White Aveline, and it is recommended that about 10 per cent of the planting be devoted to pollinizers, in the proportion of 6 per cent Du Chilly and 2 per cent each of Daviana and White Aveline, the balance of the planting being Barcelona. Probably any of the above varieties used alone would produce fair results but for the reasons stated above the combination is preferred.

The writer is not familiar with either the Chaperon or Clackamas except in an experimental way, and hesitates to recommend them for the Barcelona, although both, particularly the Clackamas, seem very effective on the Du Chilly. Where the Daviana is not available they might be substituted therefor.

### THE VARIETIES RECOMMENDED, HOWEVER, WILL DO THE WORK IN THE QUANTITIES GIVEN.

The writer has seen a number of small groves during the past year in different parts of the valley which should be of the varieties indicated for main planting and pollinizer, but which actually range from seedlings to the Turkish tree filbert, slightly larger than a pine nut. The planter must be sure that he gets what he orders. Don't look for bargain trees.

### Suckering

The filbert has a tendency to throw suckers and these suckers rob the main tree. They should therefore be removed as they appear each spring. If this work is properly done the tree will out-grow the habit, but if not done the tree will become a bush, to the detriment of the yield. There is an impression that these suckers are very numerous. Such is not the case, and in the work of removing the suckers so much stress has been laid upon it that this



even year old DuChilly filberts on the Stolz-McNary farm near Salem. (United States Senator Chas. L. McNary in the foreground.)

idea has arisen. The sucker should be removed from the point it originates and no stub left. If this necessitates removing a little earth, do so, and do a good job, because it will pay you large returns, while neglect will cost you money in the shape of delayed and decreased yields.

**Cultivation and General Practice**  
The tree should be headed from two to three feet high, and held to one trunk, to facilitate machine cultivation. More than one trunk is not particularly objectionable, but has no advantage, and the higher headed, single trunk tree is cheaper to take care of.

Planting should be at not less than 20 feet, and on rich soil a slightly larger distance, may be preferable. Remember, the filbert is a long lived tree; therefore, do not crowd. It is true the yield during the first few years of the orchard's bearing life will be greater from a close planting, but as time goes on, the crowded planting will fall behind.

A filbert is like any other tree in demanding food and drink, and it is up to the grower to supply these. If you figure that cultivating and good cultivation is not necessary or is foolishness, do not plant an orchard but go back to the ribbon counter and save money. There is nothing that pays so well as intelligent cultivation and no period so important as in the first years.

There is no tree that responds to a pat on the head and a well lined bonnet only instead of affection the filbert gives you a bountiful harvest of fine nuts which are readily convertible into coin of the realm, at about the same value per pound as a Ford.

## FERTILIZER ADDS TO PRUNE YIELD

The Experience of a Prominent Lane County Grower in an Old Orchard

The following is from the January number of the Oregon Grower, official magazine of the Oregon Growers Cooperative association:

Mr. L. N. Miller, member of the Oregon Growers Cooperative association in Lane county, seven years ago purchased a prune orchard near Lasen Station on the Oregon Electric. This orchard covers 12 acres, but actually consists, after counting out missing trees, of four acres of 40 year old orchard, and five acres of 20 year old orchard. Mr. Miller has harvested a crop every year, averaging about 17 tons of dried fruit per year. The smallest crop was 14 tons, and the largest 25 tons.

The treatment given this orchard by Mr. Miller is interesting. Prior to the fall of 1919 he had never planted a cover crop or applied commercial fertilizer. He had, however, spread about 25 loads of manure per acre every other year, applying it from time

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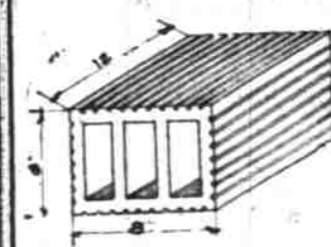
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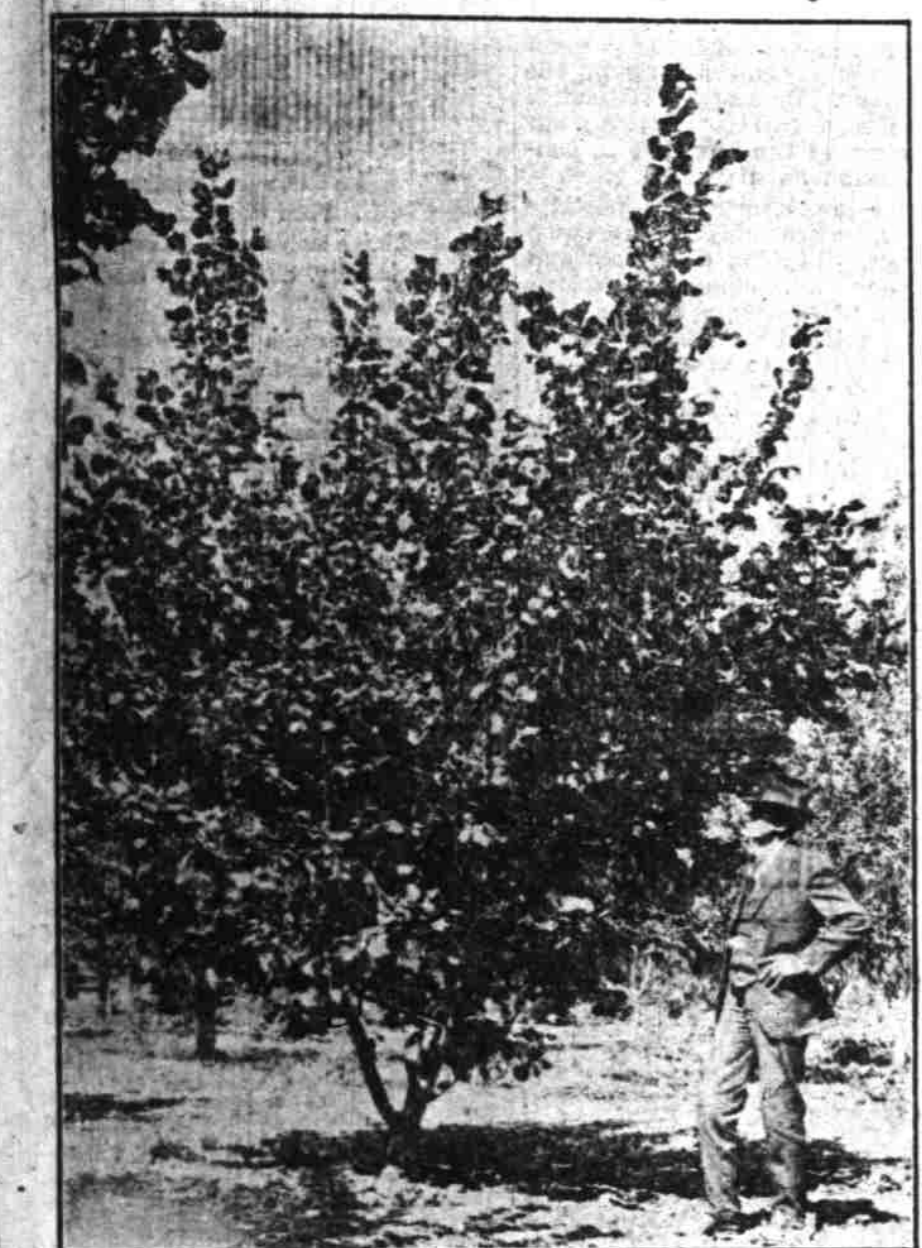
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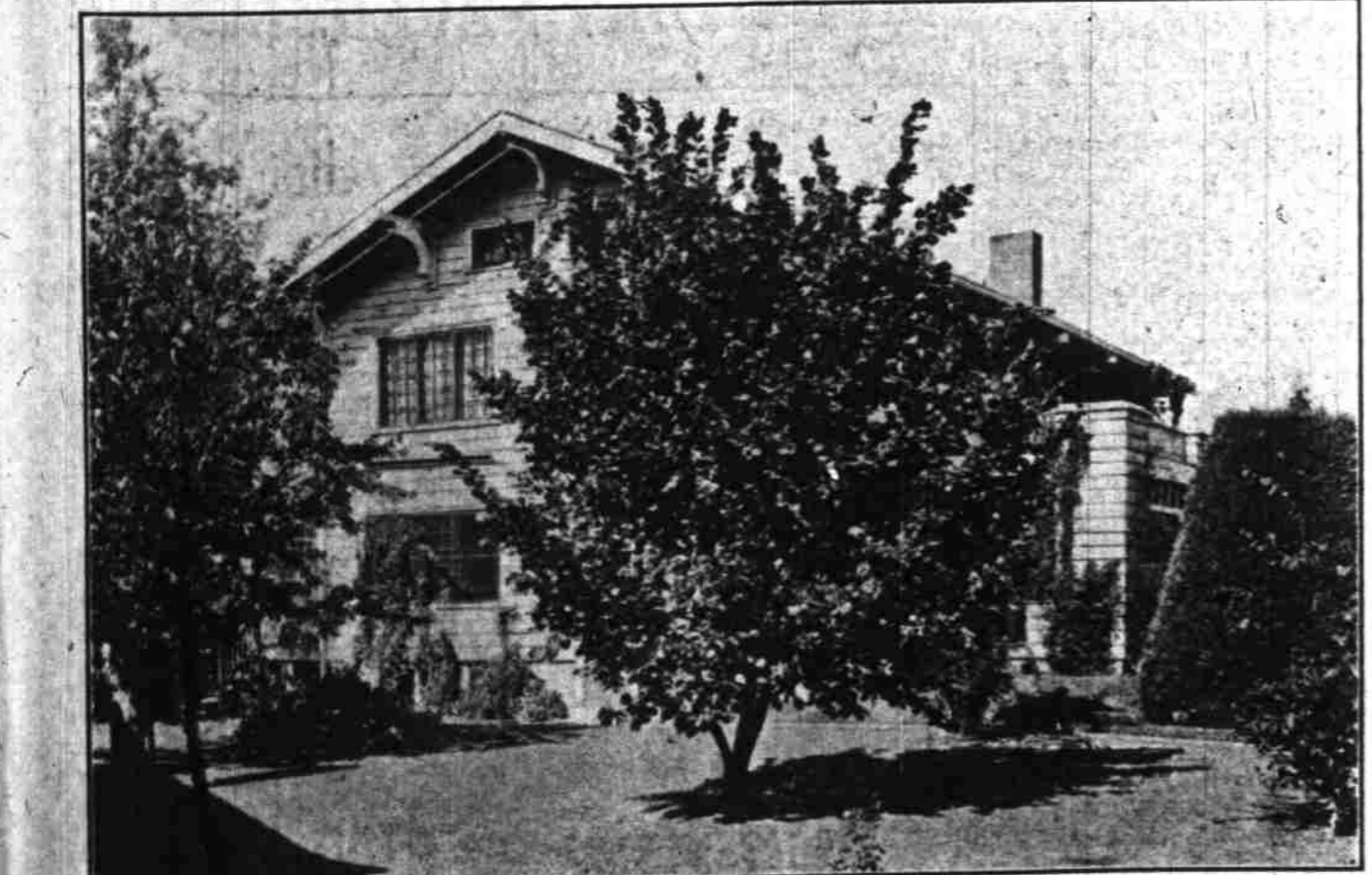
Sever year old Barcelona filbert tree on the Stolz-McNary farm near Salem. (Walter T. Stolz in the foreground.)

that they have the advantage of the knowledge gained through hard knocks and at large expense of time and money by such pioneers. Following is the article:)

your side rather than try to fight her. And I also believe that in no other case will Nature aid you in the Willamette valley as she will with the filbert, the first cousin of the wild hazel, which is the only nut indigenous to Oregon.

There are two periods in the life of an orchard when mistakes can be made, namely, before it is planted and afterwards. Mistakes of the first class may be expensive but they can be rectified. Those made after the planting are very often impossible to correct and almost always exceedingly expensive. And nowhere is this more the case than with the filbert. In fact, outside of disregarding common sense altogether, it is practically impossible to make a serious mistake with a filbert orchard after it is one year old. If this were not the case, there would be no filbert groves in the state today, for every conceivable kind of mistake has been made during the period

The impression seems to prevail that the filbert requires a culture peculiarly its own. On the one hand, it is credited with being a very difficult and hazardous crop to raise when, as a matter of fact, quite the reverse



The largest Barcelona filbert tree in the United States, for its age. The photograph from which the above cut was made was taken in the fall of 1920 by a member of the photographic staff of the United States Department of Agriculture. The tree was 7 years old then. It stands on the south side of the lawn of Hon. J. H. McNary at his home, corner of Center and North Summer streets, Salem.