

GEO. A. DORRIS, THE FILBERT KING AND PIONEER, TELLS OF THE INDUSTRY

Pollination, Varieties Used, Methods Employed, and a Great Deal of Most Valuable Information—The Man Who Plants Filberts Has No Element of Chance—One of Most Attractive Horticultural Pursuits of Oregon.

Editor Statesman:

After having delivered eight or ten annual addresses on this subject before various societies, all of which were widely published—some of them in The Statesman—I feel reluctant to again inflict my views on your readers. But as there is a deep and widespread interest in all the questions that pertain to filbert culture and as there are yet many unsettled points I feel it my duty as one who has helped develop this new industry and has the greatest confidence in its future, to comply with your request and give your readers the benefit of my observations and conclusions. In doing so it will not only give me the opportunity to express my satisfaction that the predictions I made in an address before the State Horticultural society some ten years ago are now rapidly being fulfilled, but it will also enable me to show wherein I have modified or abandoned some of my former written opinions. For in the earlier days, be it remembered, the whole industry was in its experimental stage, and little or nothing was known of many fundamental necessities, with the natural consequence that those of us who pioneered the way drew many erroneous conclusions and made many expensive mistakes. In fact, my own success was not in the slightest degree due to any intelligence on my part but to a combination of conditions which, so far as I was concerned, were entirely accidental.

While I knew from the beginning that I was succeeding beyond my expectations I did not know why. Nor did I know why some others who later tried it failed and some succeeded.

The Key Is Pollination.
Now we have the key that unlocks the mystery, and that key is pollination. In my groves I had it and did not know it. Neither did I then know its necessity. Now the man who plants a filbert grove may know to a certainty that there is no element of chance; that if he follows certain requirements success is assured. And in filbert growing one may fall far short of the maximum possibilities of production and still succeed, but to get the maximum of production and therefore of success, two elements are essential: first the tree must be naturally of a heavy and regular bearing strain, and, second, pollination must be perfect.

By the exercise of due caution the prospective planter may now be certain on both points. Without such caution he may be disappointed.

The Main Crop
My observation has firmly convinced me that the Barcelona is the only variety to be considered for the main crop. That seems to be the consensus of opinion among nearly all growers. Some apparently promising seedlings are being tried out but they will have a mighty task to eclipse the better strains of Barcelona, either in vigor of growth, regularity of bearing or size of crop.

The DuChilly has some advocates. It is a fine nut and I once thought favorably of it, but years of experience with it have convinced me that its only place in a grove is as a pollinizer for the Barcelona.

Pollination
On the subject of pollination of the Barcelona there is a great divergence of opinion. With a few exceptions all now agree that it is a necessity, but what and how many pollinizers to use is a debatable question. It should not be forgotten that when the pollination is insufficient the crop is small, the nuts extra large and the percentage of blanks very high. The aim should be to use only enough pollinizers to insure a good normal crop, with a low percentage of blanks.

Recommendations on this point vary from ten to 50 per cent of the planting. Those who advocate the larger number do so on the theory that a crop can be secured from the pollinizers also. That is true to a certain extent, but when we consider that such pollinizer in the grove makes one less Barcelona, and that one Barcelona, from a commercial standpoint, is worth from two to five of any of the pollinizers now in use, it can be seen readily why the smallest number of pollinizers consistent with the greatest amount of quality yield of the Barcelona should be the rule. Again, the number of pollinizers used should depend on the variety,

tough, is a very simple and easy task, if done at the proper time. If the work is properly done the tree, at four or five years, ceases to throw more than an occasional sucker.

Type of Tree
Most people prefer a tree with a single trunk, on the theory that it looks better. For my own part, I see no objection to forming the tree by allowing two or three suckers to grow. In either case the tree will form a symmetrical head, but I am inclined to think that a two or three trunk tree will give a better bearing surface, and such a type is more in conformity with the natural tendency of the tree. This system is endorsed by several successful growers.

Cultivation.
While the filbert will stand much neglect, proper cultivation will not only increase the size and bearing capacity of the tree but will result in larger nuts.

Markets.
With the exception of a few tons raised in Oregon and Washington, the only localities yet found in the United States where the filbert can be grown successfully, the importations have increased from eight million pounds in 1909 to from eighteen to twenty million pounds in the last three years. Do what we may, it will be many years before our production keeps pace with increasing consumption, and when it exceeds it the imported article will give way to the superior domestic product.

Production.
The all important question is how often may we expect a crop and what will it be. I can answer this best by giving my own experience. My first planting was made twenty years ago. I have four other plantings ranging from five to fifteen years, and one planted this year.

In my first planting of 100 trees, which so far as I know was the first plantation in the state, were twenty-five Barcelonas. These trees were two years old when set out and bore a few nuts that year. Every year since these trees have borne crops, nearly all of them large without a single failure or partial failure. All the younger trees except some in one grove, where the pollination is insufficient, have a like record of continuous heavy bearing. Of late years individual trees in the original group have produced as high as fifty pounds. There are several misses and several resets of a much younger age, but the group just as it is produced last year at the rate of over thirty-five hundred pounds per acre, and this year only a little less. This grove was never pruned until this spring, when a great deal of thinning out was done, which may account for the slight decrease in yield this year.

Prof. Schuster, of the Oregon Agricultural college, harvested from one fifteen-year-old tree this year fifty-nine pounds. Almost half of them were picked off the ground and about half picked from the tree. Afterwards probably four to six pounds dropped off the tree and I picked them up. Making all allowance for shrinkage, I feel sure that this tree produced at least fifty-five pounds of dried nuts this year. I have other trees of the same age equally large, which were apparently equally well loaded, of which no record was made. One of these trees produced forty-eight pounds four years ago. Over twenty-five pounds of nuts were produced this year from a nine-year-old tree, twenty-one pounds from the same tree last year, and fifteen pounds three years preceding that.

In England mature filbert groves occasionally produce from four thousand to five thousand pounds per acre. With a record of nineteen successive crops, nearly all of them proportional to the size of the tree, and with a like record for the younger trees, I have every reason to believe from the actual performance of my own trees that with a naturally heavy bearing strain and adequate pollination, our best groves at fifteen to twenty years of age will not only occasionally but frequently equal the English yields. Regular fields of even half that amount will put filbert growing as one of the most attractive horticultural pursuits of this state.

—GEO. A. DORRIS
Springfield, Ore., Oct. 24, 1922.

\$400 PIANO \$89
We have five practice pianos for only \$89, on terms of \$5 down, \$1 a week.
Big Sale Now On
GEO. C. WILL,
432 State St.

\$500 Estey Piano \$275
Closing out five Estey Pianos in like new condition, \$275. \$5 down, \$1.50 a week.
GEO. C. WILL,
432 State St.

\$125 New Phonograph \$62
Closing out one nationally advertised line Phonographs at half price. \$1 down, \$1 a week.
GEO. C. WILL,
432 State St.

THE FILBERT ACREAGE TO DOUBLE NEXT YEAR IN THE SALEM DISTRICT

Probably a Thousand Acres Now in These Trees, and Another Thousand Going Out This Winter and Next Spring—and the Demand Will Exceed the Supply of Trees for Some Time in the Future—Eventually Train Loads of Filberts from Salem.

The men engaged in the filbert industry in the Salem district, without exception, so far as known, are enthusiastic concerning the future of the industry—and nearly every grower is putting out more filbert trees.

That is surely a good recommendation of the industry. There are possibly 1000 acres of filberts now growing in western Oregon, and they produced from 25 to 50 tons the past season. This is hard to estimate, because most of the trees are young.

Will Double Next Year
The filbert acreage in western Oregon will about double next year. This estimate is made because of the fact that it is known that there are some 60,000 to 70,000 nursery trees available, and that all of these are already engaged by growers, excepting 15,000 to 25,000, and these could all be sold now, excepting that the men who hold them desire to make as large a distribution as possible to new growers—for the good of the industry. Filberts are planted 60 to 75 trees to the acre.

It was the same last season—all the available stock was taken; but the supply was only about half the supply of the present planting season.

Larger Plantings Now
Many small plantings have been and are being made; but the tendency is now towards larger plantings; and towards the increase of plantings already made. Isaac D. Hunt, first vice president of the Ladd & Tilton bank in Portland, is putting out 30 acres, on his magnificent farm beyond Newberg, on the paved highway between Springbrook and Rex. Percy Bros., the Salem orchard experts, are attending to this planting.

There are other large plantings being made, and there is a prospect of 100 acres being set to filberts in this district—which would be the largest filbert grove in Oregon; or on this continent. There is a new planting being made this season near Forest Grove of 40 acres. This is the largest, so far.

Filberts Bear Early
An Albany farmer gathered 300 pounds to the acre from filbert trees four years old. One may depend upon a commercial crop from trees five to six years old. Wm. Unruh, who is over 80 years old and partially blind, has three acres of filberts at Dayton, and he will plant another acre this year.

N. E. Britt of Newberg, over 80 years of age, has a tenth of an acre of filberts in that city, and ten more acres in the hills near, and he is putting out more filbert trees this year.

Both these men are Civil war veterans. They show a spirit that might be emulated by young men, especially those who say it takes too long for a filbert tree to come into profitable bearing.

There seems no limit to the age of filbert trees, any more than walnut trees. Filbert trees are bearing crops in England that are known to be over 150 years old; and no one knows how much older. There are walnut trees many centuries old.

How Profitable Are Filberts
If the reader will note the article of Geo. B. Dorris, in this issue, he will see that this pioneer in the industry thinks full bearing orchards will produce, in full bearing, 5000 pounds to the acre—and that half this production would make them the most profitable and safe of all our orchard crops.

Most of the Oregon filberts are now selling at around 25 cents a pound. Some fancy ones are selling at 30 cents; it is understood that Mr. Dorris is receiving that price for his best nuts. Some of poorer quality are going at around 20 cents a pound now.

For a period of 10 years, preceding last year, they averaged in price here about 20 cents a pound. For these past two seasons they have been higher, and one year the Oregon crop sold at around 35 cents a pound. There is not much overhead in a filbert grove. They almost harvest themselves, and cure themselves, put in a dry place. They do not need washing and drying, as walnuts do. In fact, such drying would injure them.

Plenty of grit should be provided for the pullets in the laying quarters. Fowls not provided with grit soon show a loss of appetite and begin to lose weight. Proper use cannot be made of the feed without grit to grind it.—O.A.C. experiment station.

The most progressive potato growers who expect to certify or to have good seed are sorting carefully before the potatoes go into storage. This takes less storage space and removes the potatoes likely to start spoilage in the pit.—O.A.C. experiment station.

Vegetable Quality Wanted
Those who sell vegetables to the public, as for example, the retail grocer, find there is a distinct preference among the buying public for certain varieties, but above all, for quality produce which has the best flavor, correct size, color, shape, and solidity. A good product well grown is oftentimes half sold.—O.A.C. experiment station.

FARM REMINDERS FROM THE COLLEGE

Some Hints from the O.A.C. Experiment Station to the Men on the Land

(Following are excerpts taken from the current bulletin of the department of industrial journalism of the Oregon Agricultural college.)

It is illegal to sell cider that has not been preserved or sterilized. Cider may be preserved by using one-tenth of one per cent of benzoate of soda. This method is not always successful in preventing the formation of alcohol. The safest way is to use only good sound apples for cider making. Thoroughly strain the prod-

uct, place in glass or tin containers and sterilize for 30 minutes at a temperature of 160 degrees F.—O.A.C. experiment station.

Hannchen barley, the best spring variety, gained much in acreage in 1922 and most producers were well pleased with its yield and quality. Hannchen first showed promise in Oregon in 1909 when it was successful at the experiment station.—O.A.C. experiment station.

Worms are very troublesome to poultry at this season of the year. The poultryman who watches the droppings for the first indication of worms can check them before they seriously injure the flock. Tobacco dust, 1 pound to 30 pounds of mash, is the most commonly used remedy for round worms.—O.A.C. experiment station.

Pullets should be hitting their stride now with 50 per cent production. If there are a lot of small, late hatched pullets in the house they will do better if placed by themselves and given separate feeding.—O.A.C. experiment station.

Barley can be used with good results for the morning poultry feed, if oats are considerably higher in price. It is preferable to soak the barley to soften the hull or to germinate it.—O. A. C. Experiment Station.

In germinating barley for poultry, a small breeder lamp or other suitable means of heat is desirable for successful germination during cool weather. Warm water helps to start germination.—O.A.C. experiment station.

If the curtains for the open front of the poultry house are prepared now and then they will be handy when a sudden rain or snow storm makes them necessary.

Fresh cider may be clarified by using a tubular cream separator. Cider that has been sterilized can not be clarified in this way. More detailed methods, practicable only on a commercial scale, are necessary to clarify sterilized cider.—O.A.C. experiment station.

Poultry litter mixed with droppings has a high fertilizer value. Many poultrymen sell it for enough to pay the straw bill.—O.A.C. experiment station.

"Honey week," November 12 to 18, has been proclaimed by Governor Ben W. Olcott at the suggestion of H. C. Schullen, bee specialist at Oregon Agricultural college and secretary of the Oregon Beekeepers' association, Oregon's annual production of

chop can be disposed of to jelly and pectin manufacturing concerns in the east.—O.A.C. experiment station.

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NUMBER THIRTEEN AGAIN HAS PART

Fateful Figure Bobs up Frequently in Famous Brumfield Tragedy

Again the fateful number 13 has played a hand in the Brumfield tragedy. The marriage of Mrs. Merie Brumfield on September 26 took place 13 days after the suicide of her dentist husband in his death cell at the state prison, and not 13 days as stated in the dispatches.

Brumfield took his own life by hanging on September 13, and this was one of the number of incidents in the tragedy marked by the date 13. His crime, the murder of Dennis Russell, was committed July 13, 1921 and he originally was sentenced to be hanged on January 13, 1922. There were other developments culminating on the 13th of a month.

The Brumfield death certificate, filed with the supreme court here three days after the suicide, is signed by Howard Mosens as informant. Mosens is the man to whom Mrs. Brumfield was married on September 26. His address is given as 796 East Hoyt street, Portland.

honey is nearly 66 carloads. There is no reason why this production should not be greatly increased, Governor Olcott said. It is to educate the people in regard to the value of the honey bee that "honey week" will be observed.

Among other queer phases of the attempt to enforce the prohibition law is the fact that presumably people will invest from \$5 to \$10 a pint for moonshine liquor and take a chance of being poisoned with the stuff. There seems to be nothing quite so perverse as humanity.

COUGHS
Apply over throat and chest—swallow small pieces of—
VICKS
VAPORUB
Over 17 Million Jars Used Yearly

Don't Surrender Your Rights!

OUR forefathers fought for their rights. Many of them gave their lives that we might enjoy freedom.

In the Declaration of Independence they recorded those truths that have so safely guided our democracy.

They have written that men are endowed by their Creator with certain "unalienable" rights, and "to secure these rights governments are instituted among men."

And now these rights are attacked. The School Monopoly Bill (called on the ballot Compulsory Education Bill) proposes that we surrender a God-given right—the right of parental control—the right of a parent to say in what school his or her own child shall be educated.

Maintain your right to control your child through the education you feel it is right to give it. Do not be led astray by fine phrases. Look into this dangerous bill. You will find the vital principle of "unalienable" rights is at stake.

Vote 315X NO on the School Monopoly Bill

Called on the ballot Compulsory Education Bill

This advertisement is paid for by the Non-Sectarian and Protestant Schools Committee.