

PUBLIC BENEFACTORS ARE THEY WHO PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE GOOD SEED

Our Seed Industry Growing, Says Prof. Hyslop—Red and Alsike Clover Important, Also the Vetches—All the Alfalfa We Grow Should Be Grimm Alfalfa—Good Seed the Basis of Successful Agriculture

Editor Statesman: Good seed is the basis of a successful agriculture. Public benefactors are they who produce and distribute good seed. And by the same token those who exploit fake varieties and seed low grade seed should be branded as public nuisances. The success of the farmer and the food supply of the state and the nation are based on good seed.

Fortunate indeed is Oregon in having a number of far sighted seed men who are trying to produce, buy and sell good seed—seeds of merit.

Cause for Complaint Probably the most common complaint coming to an experiment station man is about seed quality, and sometimes about seed from firms who are careful. What is the basis for complaint? Generally because the seed didn't come up. Why didn't it? Sometimes dead seed; often planted too deep, sometimes too early, sometimes killed by treatment. The responsibility does not always rest with the seedman, but his is an important problem in getting good seed.

The seed dealer is handicapped by the public taste or fashion in buying and his business success depends on his ability to sell seeds.

Some people say that "no seedman should sell anything but Grimm alfalfa in Oregon, and I believe the agriculture of the state would be far better off if that were the case. But how would it affect the seedman's business? Just like this. A lot of people would read advertisements of cheap alfalfa seed in Utah or Idaho or elsewhere and send out for it. Not all farmers have found out the merits of Grimm alfalfa. So the trade must keep both Grimm and some of the many kinds of common.

Burn Mixtures Costly Take the case of seed for sowing on burned over land. Irreparable damage has been done in many cases by sowing the average "burn mixture." It consists of (1) cheat, rye grass and mesquite, all cheap and often screenings from better grass and from grain, (2) screenings from red and alsike clover, usually full of buckhorn and sorrel and (3) a few good grasses like orchard grass, timothy, red top and blue grass in just enough quantity that it can be said they are there.

So such a mixture and in 3 to 5 years everything is gone but the buckhorn or plattain and when that occupies the land, there is little chance to get any grasses started without plowing or disking up a seed bed.

Why don't people refuse to buy such junk? Because they do not know seeds by looking at them and because the prepared burn mixtures sell cheap. May seed dealers feel the need for a cheap burn mixture to meet competition of others selling similar material equally worthless.

So the dealer has his competitive problems and he too is dependent on the growers of seed for what he can buy.

Trade Finicky Part of the trade is too exacting in seed quality and another part is either ignorant or careless. For instance in the spring of 1925 I purchased five lots of Grimm alfalfa seed, two number two lots and three number one lots. All were tested and none contained dodder or other objectionable perennial weeds. The price range was 33c, 43c, 48c and 55c, the last being the price on two lots of Montana seed. They were sowed at about 15 pounds an acre under very good conditions. There were some weeds in the soil. There were slightly more weeds that came up in the 33 and 43 cent lot, but not enough to hurt the stand or to make it worth while to pay 12 to 22 cents a pound or \$1.92 to \$3.52 cents an acre more for seed.

I think that the expense of re-cleaning has in some cases become excessive although a high percentage of weed seeds as say one and a half to two per cent or more is objectionable.

The really important thing in the weed line in clover or grass or alfalfa is not so much the percent of foxtail or Russian thistle or pig-

ment could appear the day after it was received, since plants, bulbs and seeds must be delivered in season to be of use.

With a single exception, all of these growers have their wares priced attractively low, and I wish heartily for their own sakes, that they would consider placing an advertisement with a daily paper, serving the city as well as the country, for country people are not heavy buyers of seeds, shrubs and bulbs, for you see we still hold to the old fashion of exchanging roots and stuff to a much greater extent than they do in town, where their limited ground prevents any great surplus from accumulating at any time.

Now I am not authorized to state that Mrs. Franklin B. Matthews of Route 9, Salem, or Mrs. Ada Byrne Powers (there being two Mrs. William Powers in our neighborhood, I call one "Ada") have dahlias for sale, but I have been on the stage when it passed their respective homes on the Pacific highway, and I have heard the women passengers just fairly scream with delight at sight of so much beauty. We cannot all raise dahlias. It is a gift from God, and as such should be made the most of by growing them for sale, especially if interested in "pin" money. Another woman, with a special gift, or expertise in raising flowers, is Mrs. E. A. Matthes, of Claxton, whose sweet peas, marigolds, and zinnias have been the delight and despair of less talented persons. But, like many others, she does not raise seeds because she would not know what to do with them. Mrs. Arch Claggett of Route 5, Salem, is already pretty well established as a grower of sweet peas and while as yet her floral business is in the cut flower stage, I note that she is beginning to advertise a little, which is always a favorable sign.

But that somebody within this sun-kissed land of ours is really growing seeds on contract we may guess from the three acres of pansies near Oregon City, and the poppy acreage around Hubbard. It is presumed that the Portland Seed company, the Rutledge Seed and Floral company, or J. J. Butzer of the same city are establishing seed growing centers in this section, so that it is quite possible that California's seed gardens, something over two thousand acres in extent, exclusive of sweet peas, may not forever be the bell shep in the business.

Some High Lights Here are some of the high lights of the Salem district as a seed center, touched upon by Harley O. White, of the well known firm of D. A. White & Sons, seedsmen and feedmen, Salem, in an interview with the Statesman editor. This firm buys great quantities of seeds, in a wholesale way, shipping in car and smaller lots long distances, and Harley O. White is thoroughly posted in all matters in the seed world;

Alsike clover seed will this year bring to our farmers about \$50.00; about the same as last year. Western Oregon is the only section of the United States where it has proven profitable to grow vetches for seed. We have a short crop this year, but it will bring about \$50.00. The growers will get \$90 a ton for their seed.

California wants all the certified potato seed our farmers can send; and there is a demand for Oregon grown potatoes for seed in Idaho and Washington. Right close to Salem, there are at least 300 acres devoted to growing certified potato seed this year—against probably 25 acres last year. The Oregon Agricultural college is helping in this. The seed is being generally grown under contract.

Our dry summer and fall weather makes this a favored section for producing many varieties of garden and flower seed.

Said Mr. White: "Oregon has been known usually as a grower of field seeds, especially of clover, alfalfa and vetches, but grows to perfection many kinds of seeds. "I might mention that in various parts of the Salem district there have been grown and are now grown many varieties of garden seeds, especially cabbage, kale, carrots, turnips, rutabagas, cauliflower, broccoli, radishes, peas, beans, etc. "The varieties grown in the valley are the medium red and alsike clover, with some White Dutch clover. The white Dutch clover needs clean land, and the growing of this seed is increasing here. "The crop of clover seed has usually brought annually hundreds of thousands of dollars to the farmers, not to speak of the larger crops made possible by the growing of clover which has proven one of the best fertilizers and land builders that it is possible to obtain.

More Next Year "On account of the extreme high prices of grain, clover was somewhat neglected during the war; but the up to date farmer realizes that he must grow clover if he is going to keep his land in condition to pay him. The red clover seed crop is short this year, as it was last year. It did not bring much more than \$100,000 to our district last year, selling at 15 cents a pound. It will likely bring as much or more this year—the price will be around 25 cents a pound this year. Salem district farmers were rather hard hit last year and this year, on their red clover. They are not discouraged, however, and have put out a large new acreage this year, which will bring seed next year. The red clover seed brought in about \$400,000 to the Salem district, in 1923; and it should become a million dollar annual crop.

Exclusive Field "Western Oregon is the only place in the United States where it has proven profitable to grow vetches for seed, and the seed has been shipped all over this country from Oregon in the last few years. "California has been depending entirely on our crop for her supply, and a number of cars have gone to New York, Maryland, Texas and various points to supply the needs of those localities. "Vetch has the same fertilizer values to land as clover, and as a cover crop is not excelled by any other green crop. "A new vetch, originating in Europe, called the Purple vetch, is being used in California, mostly for fertilizing purposes, and

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THE SEED INDUSTRY OF THE SALEM DISTRICT IS DEVELOPING FASTER NOW THAN HERETOFORE. FUTURE LOOKS GOOD

Our Growers Supply the Whole Country With Kale Seed—This is the Only District of the United States Where Vetch Seed is Grown Successfully—The Big Eastern and Coast Seed Houses Are Increasing Their Contracts With Our Growers

The Salem district is coming in to its own as a seed country, and Salem is destined to become the great seed center of the United States at an earlier time than even optimists had hoped for—

And the progress in this line right now is very encouraging. Eastern and coast seed houses are making more and larger contracts with our growers. One big eastern house has contracted with a Salem district grower for 40 acres of garden seeds, including 15 acres of lettuce.

Our growers supply the whole country with kale seed; sending out about a car load a year of this seed. As it takes only two ounces to plant an acre, it will be seen that we supply seed for an immense acreage.

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Brine in which meat is curing must be watched carefully. If it becomes sour, slimy or foxy, remove the meat from the brine and scrub each piece thoroughly. Boil, skim and cool the brine or make new brine. Sterilize the container with boiling water. Brine should always be strong enough to float a fresh egg.

Barley is recommended as a good crop to grow this year to supply early feed for hogs. It should be sown before the 20th of April. Write to South Dakota State college for Circular 220 telling of the best varieties and the best way to handle the crop.

Trees and shrubs should be transplanted as soon as the ground thaws out. Soil should be packed firmly around the roots and the top two inches left loose to serve as a dust mulch.

If possible, keep the ewe and lamb in a separate pen for a few days after lambing. If each ewe cannot be kept in a separate pen, only those having lambs at about the same time should be kept together.

For information on hog pastures for South Dakota, call on your county agent for a free copy of extension circular 223 or write to South Dakota State college.

Prepare the garden soil as early as possible. Plow or spade deeply and be sure that conditions are right so that the soil will not be lumpy. A safe rule to follow is to work "when the soil is dry enough to crumble."

OUR DAHLIA KING GIVES SOME FACTS

There Are More Than 5000 Varieties; History of This Very Popular Flower

The dahlia is a native of the highlands of Mexico, north of Mexico City. In its native home it was small and single, with some variety of colors. In 1804, dahlias were successfully introduced into Europe. There the ball or show type was developed and perfected. The quilled "snowball" or show type was very popular for a time, but the lack of variation of type soon caused a decrease of popularity.

In 1879, the first cactus dahlia, "Countess of Lonsdale," was introduced. The new type had long, narrow, tightly rolled petals, resembling the chrysanthemum. With the introduction of this radically new type, the dahlia again became popular. The decorative type, with large flowers of broad petals full to the center followed. Between these two types we have the hybrid-cactus or decorative cactus type; large decorative type of flowers having fluted petals.

The new peony type is a semi-double flower with large, broad petals, and many small twisted or curled petals artistically formed around an open yellow, or clustered center.

There are also other types: the singles, the miniature form of show called pom-pom, and other novelties. Since the cactus form was introduced, the popularity of the dahlia has become world wide. The great range of color and form makes it the most popular of fall blooming flowers. So great is its prestige in the flower world that there are national dahlia societies both here and in Europe. So varied in form is it, that the American Dahlia Society has officially grown and recognized more than 5000 distinct named varieties.

For Amateur Growers For any but the commercial grower or fancier, the most practical method of growing dahlias is from the bulbs. New varieties are grown from seed, but the seed do not come true and most of the seedlings are small and single. Growing from seed is usually most unsatisfactory for the amateur. An open or half-shaded location, away from trees, is an ideal place for the dahlia garden. Sandy loam, worked deep and pulverized well, is the best soil. Plant bulbs from April 20th to May 20th. Do not plant too soon. Early planting causes the plants to mature during the hot summer months when the blooms can not be at their best. Bulbs should be planted 6 to 8 inches deep and placed horizontally, with the sprout or eye up. If the sprout is too long to cover, cut it off above the first joint. When planting in heavy clay soil, better results can be obtained by placing the bulb upon a galvanized tin. Place about three inches of dirt over the bulb and fill in with fine, moist dirt as the plant grows.

Cultivate thoroughly once a week; deep at first and shallow after they start to bloom. If possible, soak thoroughly with water once or twice a week after they start to bloom, but break the crust before the ground is dry. A good soaking once or twice a week is much better than some water every night. However, an evening shower bath for the foliage refresher it and keeps down the insects. If you have a shortage of water, a top covering of rotted straw, or manure or straw, holds

moisture so that less water is required.

By removing the side buds, larger flowers can be obtained. If buds appear early in the summer they should be removed and even the plants cut back. The dahlia is a fall blooming flower and for best results should not be allowed to bloom during the hottest part of the summer. All blooms, with as much of a stem as possible, should be cut off as soon as the edges commence to wither and turn brown. A strong stake should be firmly driven in the ground and plant loosely tied to keep it from blowing over. If more than one sprout comes from a bulb, remove the weaker, but do not allow more than one stock to each bulb. After the plant has three sets of leaves, the top may be pinched out to make the bush more dense. If a plant becomes too bushy and tender, part of the branches should be removed.

Handling the Bulbs After frost has killed the tops (if the tops have not been killed by the last of October it may be safer to dig than risk the ground getting too wet) the bulbs should be dug; and, after drying a few hours, stored in a frost-proof cellar. The stalk should be cut off two inches above the bulb. Turn the clumps stalk down for a day or two if the stalk is filled with water. If the bulbs wither from being too dry, bury in sand when thoroughly dry and inspect for rot and mould once a month. Any cut or rotten parts should be cut off and the wound rubbed with sulphur. Be very careful in removing the clumps from the ground, for the sprout is on the stalk where it joins the bulb and if the neck of the bulb is broken or strained it cannot grow.

If dahlias are planted on dry ground they may be left over winter. One successful method is to cut the stalk two inches above the ground. Over this many thick layers of newspaper are placed and dirt heaped on the paper. The ground must be well drained where the bulbs are left over winter, for if the water level reaches the bulbs they will rot. If the stalk is not cut off, dirt should be placed around it to prevent loosening in the ground. Before the clumps are divided in the spring, the bulbs should be placed in a place warm enough to encourage growth, and slightly moistened to start the sprouts until they can be located. Cut the clumps apart so that a piece of stalk with an eye is attached to each bulb. A small bulb, if properly developed, is as good if not better than a large one.

We are always glad to furnish any information possible on the care of the dahlia. Dahlia growing is thoroughly discussed by Mrs. Charles H. Stout in her book, "The Amateur's Book of the Dahlia." This book may be borrowed from either the Salem public or Oregon state libraries. See also Farmer's Bulletin No. 1370, "Dahlias for the Home," U. S. department of agriculture.

—V. E. GIN, of Goin's Dahlia Farm, Jefferson, Or., Aug. 10, 1925.

HERIOT BAY, B. C., Aug. 10. (Canadian Press).—A man named Thomas lost his life and his home at Gowanland harbor, on Vancouver Island, near here yesterday, by a forest fire. He fell over a cliff while trying to remove goods from the house.

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EVERGREENS ARE COMING IN STRONG

Pool Paying 10c on Black Raspberries and 9c on Strawberries to Growers

All the Salem canneries are running on evergreen blackberries now. They are coming in stronger each day. Despite the long dry season, cutting the crop in some localities, the indications are that there will be a considerable supply. The better price than last year will help some in bringing out tonnage.

The Starr cannery reported a good supply of evergreens yesterday, with indications that they will get all they want.

The Hunt cannery is receiving evergreens and pears; some of the latter local, the rest from southern Oregon. They will begin their long run on pears on Monday next.

The Oregon Packing company is busy, running two canneries. They began on pears Tuesday and are running on these and blackberries at the Twelfth street cannery—and on cucumbers and beans at the big new cannery across the tracks from the Southern Pacific passenger depot. The supply of cucumbers for salting and pickling is increasing daily; the same as to the beans. The bean supply is about 10 tons a day now, and will increase and go on for four or five weeks. They have now 100 women working over the beans.

Most of the canneries are paying 6c for evergreen blackberries here; and the market price in the various localities where they are getting their supplies.

Two More Pools Closed The Statesman yesterday contained the information that the Producers' Canning & Packing company had sent out checks closing their loganberry pool, at 5 1/2 cents a pound.

They were yesterday closing their black raspberry pool at 10c a pound, and their strawberry pool at 9c. Those are certainly showings that are creditable.

This cannery is paying 6 1/2 cents for evergreen blackberries, and getting a lot of them. They will buy all they can get, up to capacity. This is the only berry they buy to any extent, depending on their stockholders for practically all their other supplies of fruits.

FIRE CAUSES DEATH

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ASTER FARM GIVES A THRILLING SIGHT

Seven Acres in Asters a Mile West of McMinnville Makes a Wonderful Show

By ELLA McMUNN

About now the most eye-weary globe trotter may see a sight that will bring him a thrill if he visits the Herbert & Fleishauer farm, a mile west of McMinnville. There are a little more than seven acres, and it is primarily a seed farm, although many cut flowers are sold on the grounds and shipped to distant places. Twenty years ago the enterprise that has now reached such magnificent proportions, was an experimental bed of flowers. Now, while we at home know next to nothing about it, they ship seed to Africa, New Zealand, Honolulu, Sweden, Canada and the "states" or course. They have a patent watering system, but in addition do an immense amount of cultivation, bringing the flower to its highest state of perfection before it "goes to seed." About twenty persons are employed during the growing season and seed harvest time. For wholesale lots they receive \$65 per pound for seed, which means a great bulk of it, as the seed is small and light, but at retail prices they receive more. 100,000 cut flowers are shipped out every year and see to the amount of \$5,000.

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Rectifying Mistakes of the Farm. After the harvest is over, most farmers can look back and see how more profits could have been made by better equipment, more land, better stock and other things which are needed for the general welfare of the farm. When these things are fresh in mind is the time to lay plans for next year. And lack of finances need not prevent you from carrying them out, for Hawkins & Roberts are always glad to loan money to farmers who can profitably use it in promoting their prosperity. When money is needed, think of Hawkins & Roberts. MORTGAGE LOANS, BONDS AND INVESTMENTS, 2nd Floor, OREGON BLDG, SALEM, OREGON. HAWKINS & ROBERTS INC.

Mountain Ash Tree Seeds, Oregon Cedar Tree Seeds, Alanthus (Tree of Heaven), Cascara (Chittim Tree), Sweet Briar Rose Seeds, Poppies, Pansies, Canterbury Bells, Potato Seeds in Seed Pods. For wholesale lots write Ella McMunn, Salem, Oregon, R.F.D. 8. Retail orders for flowers, seeds filled by E. B. FLAKE'S PETLAND, STATE STREET, SALEM.