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SALEM DISTRICT INDUSTRIES

SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

THE DAILY STATESMAN dedicates two or more pages each week in the interests of one of the fifty-two to a hundred basic industries of the Salem district. Letters and articles from people with vision are solicited. This is your page. Help make Salem grow.

THE OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EXPERT ON GROWING OF GOOSEBERRIES

The Oregon (Sometimes Called the Oregon Champion) Is the Variety to Grow Here, Especially for the Canners—Our Hill Soils Are Good—The Cost of Growing Is Not High, and We Have Methods of Controlling the Gooseberry Diseases Here—A Warning on Over Production

(In 1925, Prof. Henry Hartman wrote a special article for the annual gooseberry Slogan number of The Statesman. He is associate professor of pomology of the Oregon Agricultural college, and our highest authority on gooseberries. The article is reprinted below, for the benefit of new subscribers in this field.)

The gooseberry during the past few years has been brought to the attention of Oregon fruit growers, with the result that a considerable acreage of this fruit has been planted. Though neglected in past years, it has suddenly taken its place among the standard fruits of this region, but in spite of the material increase in tonnage there is still demand for gooseberries in certain districts. Canners here and there are still calling for gooseberries.

It must be kept in mind, however, that the uses of the gooseberry are limited and that this fruit is more or less cosmopolitan in character. It can be grown commercially in many places. For these reasons the agricultural economic conference held at Corvallis last year recommended that gooseberry planting be increased only to take care of existing demands.

Hill Soils Good.
The culture of the gooseberry has passed the experimental stage, and it has been demonstrated that this fruit is adapted to a rather wide range of conditions in western Oregon. It does well upon hill soils where air and water drainage are good. In fact, heavier yields of gooseberries have been obtained upon this type of land than upon the richer river bottoms such as are desirable for the cane fruit.

Is a Heavy Producer.
Under proper conditions and with proper treatment, the gooseberry is a heavy producer. Yields of four tons to the acre have been reported by growers and in a few cases yields higher than this have been obtained. Thus far the gooseberry has proved to be a fairly sure cropper. Compared with other fruits it is an early bloomer, but where air drainage is good very little damage from frost has occurred. Gooseberry plants are

hardy and under usual conditions they stand the winters well.

Choice of varieties for western Oregon is limited to the native American types. The large European gooseberry which does well in certain districts east of the Cascade mountains is extremely sensitive to mildew and does not succeed in this climate. The Oregon, or Oregon Champion, has been the standard sort for this region and at present seems to be as reliable as any.

The Cost Not High.
The cost of producing gooseberries is not high in comparison to that of other fruits. It requires no special treatment so far as culture and handling are concerned. Plants may be grown from hard wood cuttings at small expense, and posts and wire are not necessary.

The gooseberry is not difficult to handle. It is extremely firm in texture and can be stripped from the vines without injury. Rain has no effect upon it. It is harvested while in the green stage and a delay of a few days does not injure it. It keeps well after picking and may be held for sometime awaiting shipping or processing.

Can Control Diseases.
Thus far Oregon has been fortunate in the matter of serious insect pests and diseases of the gooseberry. Of course, here as elsewhere, it has its enemies, but by strict adherence to established methods of control, these have been kept in check. Anthracnose has been successfully held down by the use of Bordeaux mixture.

Mildew has been controlled by fungicides. The currant worm has been held in check by arsenate of lead, while the gooseberry maggot, which in some sections is a serious limiting factor, has been foiled by early and clean picking. At the present time canners are having some difficulty in processing due to the presence of sulfur on the berries. This trouble, however, will doubtless be eliminated by early spraying before fruit sets.

The gooseberry comes into bearing at an early stage. No fruit aside from the strawberry, in fact, comes into fruiting earlier. When good care has been given a fair crop of gooseberries may be expected the second year.

Dates of Slogans in Daily Statesman

(In Weekly Statesman)

(With a few possible changes)	Drug Garden, May 6
Loganberries, October 7, 1926	Sugar Beets, Sorghum, Etc., May 13, 1927
Prunes, October 14	Water Powers, May 20
Dairying, October 21	Mining, June 3
Flax, October 28	Land, Irrigation, Etc., June 10
Filberts, November 4	Floriculture, June 17
Walnuts, November 11	Hops, Cabbage, Etc., June 24
Strawberries, November 18	Wholesaling and Jobbing, July 1
Apples, November 25	Cucumbers, Etc., July 8
Raspberries, December 2	Goats, July 22
Mint, December 9	Schools, Etc., July 29
Blackberries, December 16	Sheep, Aug. 5
Cherries, December 23	National Advertising, Aug. 12
Pears, January 6, 1927	Livestock, August 26
Gooseberries, January 13	Grain and Grain Products, Sept. 2
Celery, January 20	Manufacturing, September 9
Spinach, Etc., February 3	Automotive Industries, Sept. 16
Onions, Etc., February 10	Woodworking, Etc., Sept. 23
Potatoes, Etc., February 17	Paper Mills, Sept. 30
Bees, February 24	Summary, Oct. 7
Poultry and Pet Stock, Mar. 3	
City Beautiful, Etc., March 10	(Back copies of the Thursday edition of The Daily Oregon Statesman are on hand. They are for sale at 10 cents each, mailed in any address. Current copies 5 cents.)
Great Cows, March 17	
Paved Highways, March 24	
Head Lettuce, March 31	
Silos, Etc., April 7	
Legumes, April 14	
Asparagus, Etc., April 21	
Grapes, Etc., April 28	

THIS WEEK'S SLOGAN

DID YOU KNOW That Salem is the center of a great gooseberry industry; that this is the best country in the world for the gooseberry grower, because he can raise more and better gooseberries to the acre here; that the Oregon Champion gooseberry is the champion canning gooseberry of the earth; that it is also a splendid berry for shipping fresh, holding up for several weeks; that Oregon is the leading state in the Union in number of cases of gooseberries canned, and that we should have jelly and jam factories taking a great tonnage of our gooseberries?

sprays will help to protect the first leaves and in many cases will be enough to keep down the fungus to a small number of infections until the fruit is harvested. Then the leaves should be well coated at once with Bordeaux 4-4-50 to keep the disease from further increase. While the first year may not show complete control, the effect of the Bordeaux spraying is cumulative, for after spraying there will be fewer infected leaves to carry the disease over winter and the job of protection will be easier and more complete the second year after treatment has begun.

This Is Encouraging.
There are a great number of growers who have planted gooseberries in the past without understanding the need for protecting their plantings against these two diseases and who have found their crops ruined and their bushes defoliated before they knew what was happening. Many of these same growers have thought that it might be better to pull out the bushes, but on learning of these methods of spraying have applied them and have been astonished and encouraged by the quick return of their plants and crops to normal conditions. These remedies or rather preventatives have been used over and over again in Oregon with great success when rightly applied, but the degree of success depends on the two factors of timeliness and thoroughness.

—H. P. BARSS.
Corvallis, Oregon,
January 8, 1927.
(Prof. Barss is plant pathologist of the Oregon experiment station, Oregon Agricultural college, and the highest and best authority we have.—Ed.)

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SWEET CHERRIES DO WELL IN OREGON

Oregon Agricultural College Says Climatic Conditions Are Ideal

Climatic conditions for growing sweet cherries in Oregon are ideal, says a report from the Oregon Agricultural college experiment station. Although many fine crops have been grown with scant attention to protection from insects and diseases, inroads of these enemies have become important and call for attention. Three diseases have caused economic losses in western Oregon—bacterial gummosis, cylindrical spore leaf spot, and brown rot.

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OUR GOOSEBERRY KING IS THE SAME MAN WHO HAS LONG HELD THE TITLE

The Canneries of Salem Took All of His 64 Ton Crop Last Year, and He Hopes to Be Able to Dispose of This Year's Output to the Same People—He Produces a Lot of Other Things on His Land

For several years W. Crawford has been the gooseberry king of Oregon, and he still rightfully holds that title. Up to 1925, he did very well with gooseberries. The prices were good; up around 6 and 7 cents a pound. In 1925 he suffered a loss on his gooseberries. Finding no market at the Salem cannery that had heretofore taken his crop, that year, he shipped his berries to Chicago. They proved wonderful shippers and kept in perfect condition in cold storage at Chicago for six to eight weeks. But they did not sell readily there, at remunerative prices, against the competition of the Michigan and other eastern districts growing larger berries. There is no doubt as to the superior quality of the Oregon gooseberry for use in the fresh state, but in order to get them over in the big markets a campaign of education would be necessary to be shown; the consumer who is used to a larger berry. As a canning berry, there is no doubt whatever concerning the superior quality of the Oregon gooseberry—and Oregon is the greatest gooseberry state in the Union in point of number of cases put into cans. Most of the Oregon canneries had loaded up on gooseberries in 1923, and therefore could handle only a few or none of them in 1925. They used all the gooseberries last year, and will no doubt do so this year.

Better Last Year.
Mr. Crawford produced 64 tons of gooseberries last year. About a fourth of his tonnage was under contract, and he got 6 cents a pound for these. The rest he sold to two Salem canneries, the Hunt cannery and that of the Oregon Packing company. These latter brought three and a half cents a pound. He hopes to do as well this year in tonnage, and to get as high a price as he did last year on the berries not under contract. He has none under contract now. The reader will naturally be interested in the methods of Mr. Crawford. He has 23 acres of gooseberries, seven, six, five and four years old. He may count on as high as four tons to the acre from his mature bushes. Men in his neighborhood have grown very much larger crops on small tracts. So has Mr. Crawford.

Planting Methods.
Mr. Crawford plants six feet apart each way and leaves a ten-foot roadway every 12 rows, for the spraying and drawing. He prunes in the winter while the bushes are dormant and leaves nothing older than three year old wood. He leaves four or five new canes each year; provides

about a dozen canes for each clump for bearing.

The Spraying.
Where the anthracnose is in evidence he sprays just as the buds appear, with 5-5-50; that is 5 parts bluestone and 5 of lime to 50 parts of water. Sprays again with the same solution right after picking.

If not spraying for anthracnose, Mr. Crawford puts on a dormant winter spray, 1 to 9 lime-sulphur solution. This is in the nature of a general housecleaning, and Mr. Crawford gives this to every bush fruit and fruit tree on his place, every year. His observation is that this is an insurance against disease; that if every orchardist practiced this method, he would not have much trouble with diseases of his bush or tree fruits of any kind.

For mildew, Mr. Crawford sprays with 1-40 lime-sulphur solution just after the blossom drops; when the berries are very small.

For the borer, he grubs up the bush and burns it. The grower can tell when the borer is present by the yellowing of the tops of the branches, after which they begin to die.

Methods of Cultivation.
Mr. Crawford plows the dirt to the bushes in December; from the bushes in March. As soon as the ground is dry, he cultivates crosswise; three times. Then old mashes both ways. He believes in early cultivation, and shallow cultivation.

The Picking.
In harvesting the crop, each picker has a canvas and uses gloves and strips or combs the berries off with his or her fingers. The berries drop off onto the canvas, and they are then poured into a box. The leaves are fanned out with a fanning mill, and the berries are sacked and delivered.

Mr. Crawford uses only the Oregon Champion variety.

Mr. Crawford does not confine his operations to gooseberries. The registered name of his place is the "Sunrise Fruit Farm," registered in Polk county. His location is two and a half miles west of Lincoln; seven miles from Salem, on Rural Route 1. Salem. He has 306 acres in all. He first bought the old J. R. Shepherd place of 136

acres and has added to his holdings since.

He had up to last year 13 acres of cherries in bearing and 15 acres of young cherry trees. He has 70 acres of bearing prune trees, 11 and 13 years old; a few walnuts and filberts and a sprinkling of all the other fruits.

He produces strawberries and breeds swine, goats, sheep and horses and has a few cows and other live stock.

Some New Things.
He has just put out 15 acres more of cherries, mostly Royal Anns. He has also a new strawberry acreage, six acres in Marshalls and one and a half acres of Ettersburgs.

He has been going stronger on swine breeding. He keeps Chester Whites and Poland Chinas, and he crosses these breeds for quick growth of young stock to turn off. This is an idea of his own, and he finds it best for his conditions. He grows his own corn for feeding, maturing it and drying it by spreading in dry sheds. He produces about 50 bushels of corn to the acre.

Mr. Crawford is a graduate of the Capital Business college of Salem. He keeps strict account of all his operations—in short, conducts his farming operations like a business man runs his store.

The big tonnages of gooseberries in Oregon are grown in the Polk county hills across the Willamette river from Salem, and not far from the farm of Mr. Crawford. Which means the tonnage of canning berries for the whole county.

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OREGON VEGETABLE GROWING INDUSTRY

College Gives Reasons Why It Has Superior Advantage in This State

Vegetable growing in Oregon shows steady development, says a recent Oregon Agricultural college experiment station report, with an especially noticeable gain in carrot export of truck crops to other states. Long growing season, abundant sunshine, moderate temperature and freedom from long wet weather spells in summer, are listed among the advantages the industry enjoys in this state. These conditions not only favor rapid and large growth, but protect the crops from many diseases that have wrought serious destruction and caused enormous losses in less favored regions.

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