

Continuation of the Slogan Page: Subject This Week, the Head Lettuce

SOME LETTUCE LORE FROM THE OAC CONTAINED IN THE LATEST BULLETIN

The Importance of the Crop—The Climatic Conditions Most Suited—The Soil Types Adapted—Growing the Crop—Cultivation, Irrigation and Fertilizers, Etc.

(Circular 203 is the latest bulletin of the Oregon Agricultural College on "Growing and Marketing Head Lettuce," and the following are the main paragraphs of this bulletin:)

During the last few years there has been considerable interest in the northwest in the growing and shipping of head lettuce, and the number of cars which have been shipped has increased considerably. Lettuce is a vegetable which is widely consumed during the entire year, and there seems to be a very good market for western grown lettuce, especially the crop which is marketed during the fall.

Climatic Conditions
Cool weather has a tendency to make lettuce grow and head better, producing also a finer quality than otherwise. Sudden, warm dry spells cause tip burn, which sometimes results in rot. Moderately warm days are useful in causing a rapid growth of young plants and also in stimulating the solidity of the heads.

The weather which prevails during May and June for the spring crop and during September and October for the fall crop, is most satisfactory for the production of solid, disease-free heads. The effect of hot weather tends to cause the lettuce to go to seed before making a solid product. Evidence of hot weather in various lettuce growing regions has shown that a few days of intensely warm weather has practically ruined the crop in the district in which it was grown.

The young plants can stand considerable frost during their early growth, but later on when the heads are forming or have formed it is best for their future quality that they be not subject to frost. There is no definite injury, however, due to frost, but if possible the bulk of the crop should be cut before any cold, frosty nights prevail in the fall.

Soil Types Adapted
A variety of soils, providing they are fertile, can produce good lettuce, but it is necessary that any soil be well supplied, either naturally or artificially, with humus. Organic soils, in the form of well rotted muck land, such as beaver pond soils and similar types produce fine lettuce. This is largely due to the moisture which these

soils are capable of holding. Rich, sandy loam soils that can be irrigated also are valuable. Those soils that pack hard or are inclined to be cloddy, will not grow lettuce consistently year after year. All soils with the possible exception of the muck, need constant enriching with well rotted manure and oftentimes a commercial fertilizer is productive of a greater yield.

Growing the Crop
Seeding and transplanting. There are two ways of growing lettuce for market, one by sowing the seed directly into the ground where the crop is to grow, this work being done with a hand seeder, sowing 1 1/2 to 2 pounds of seed per acre. It is customary to sow the seed about three months before it is desired to cut the crop. On ordinary soils the seed should not be covered any deeper than half an inch. The distance between the rows is usually about 18 inches.

Fertilizers
Barnyard manure is conceded by the majority of growers to be the first consideration as far as fertilizers are concerned. Soils that are not well supplied with fertilizers will make very small heads and an unsatisfactory crop, which will not meet market requirements. Commercial fertilizers oftentimes are useful in increasing the yield, through the size and quality of the heads. A mixture of 150 to 200 pounds of nitrate of soda, 300 to 350 pounds of super-phosphate, and 125 to 150 pounds of potash, may be broadcasted before seeding and lightly worked into the top surface of the soil. Sometimes this fertilizer is divided into two parts, half of it being applied before seeding or transplanting and half used as a top dressing later on after the plants are growing nicely. It would be well for those using commercial fertilizer to try out a small portion of this on their lettuce ground, using a small area of the ground as a check against that area which received the commercial fertilizer.

Thinning
If the seed has been planted directly in the ground it will be necessary to thin according to the distances which have been previously mentioned so that the plants stand 10 to 12 inches apart in the row.

Cultivation
A small cultivator equipped with

gasoline power will work quickly between the rows and do the work of cultivation quite well. Otherwise hand cultivation must be used, preferably every eight or 10 days.

Irrigation
Unless the spring season is dry, it is not usually necessary for any irrigation for the spring crop, but water is necessary for the fall crop, which must be started by seeding directly in the open ground usually about the 10th to the 25th of July. Some growers in the state use both methods of irrigation, some applying their water by gravity and others with the overhead mist system. Irrigation undoubtedly has a tendency to influence the solidity of the heads, increases the number of No. 1 grade heads, and help to prevent tip burn. It also keeps in the soil a uniform amount of moisture for the needs of the crop throughout the growing season, which is extremely important in order to have a good quality of lettuce and prevent it from becoming bitter. Where irrigation is possible, also, another crop may precede the fall crop of lettuce or a crop may follow the spring crop of lettuce.

Fertilizers
Barnyard manure is conceded by the majority of growers to be the first consideration as far as fertilizers are concerned. Soils that are not well supplied with fertilizers will make very small heads and an unsatisfactory crop, which will not meet market requirements. Commercial fertilizers oftentimes are useful in increasing the yield, through the size and quality of the heads. A mixture of 150 to 200 pounds of nitrate of soda, 300 to 350 pounds of super-phosphate, and 125 to 150 pounds of potash, may be broadcasted before seeding and lightly worked into the top surface of the soil. Sometimes this fertilizer is divided into two parts, half of it being applied before seeding or transplanting and half used as a top dressing later on after the plants are growing nicely. It would be well for those using commercial fertilizer to try out a small portion of this on their lettuce ground, using a small area of the ground as a check against that area which received the commercial fertilizer.

Thinning
If the seed has been planted directly in the ground it will be necessary to thin according to the distances which have been previously mentioned so that the plants stand 10 to 12 inches apart in the row.

SANTIAM IRRIGATED LANDS WILL HAVE BIG HEAD LETTUCE INDUSTRY

A Hundred Thousand Acres and More That Will Finally Become a Veritable Garden and Orchard and Lawn—Where the Dry Season Will Give Opportunity With Use of Water to Make Country Beautiful and Prosperous

The head lettuce industry ought to be extended on a major scale into the Santiam irrigation district, and no doubt will be.

Water being available during the dry season for these lands, an opportunity is given for the growing of all kinds of products, regardless of the season of the year when each crop matures.

Experiments have already been made, showing that the lands there will produce under irrigation and the proper fertilization and cultural methods a head lettuce of excellent quality. Head lettuce is a quick growing crop; within limits the quicker the better for quality production, making for a tender and crisp quality of the vegetable.

Many Paying Crops
The lands in the Santiam irrigation district are showing excellent results with various crops. Kentucky Wonder beans have produced at the rate of eight tons and more to the acre there. Our local canneries have contracted this year for about 175 acres of these beans, taking about 100 acres of the contracts on the Santiam irrigated tracts near West Stayton. The growers in that district get \$70 to \$130 a ton for their beans. The canneries pay them \$70 to \$75 a ton. The canneries managers prefer the beans grown there, on account of their high quality. Buyers come from the Portland markets and haul away the beans, paying fancy prices for fancy stock. Nearly every farmer in that irrigated district grows some beans.

Fine Quality Tomatoes
Also, most of them grow some tomatoes. The canners pay them \$15 to \$18 a ton for their tomatoes, and the fresh fruit dealers come and get them and pay as high as \$60 a ton for their fancy tomatoes. The growers there can also produce (and some do produce) a fine quality of potatoes for the

July, August and September markets, when the prices of good potatoes are usually high. It is a good district, too, for late potatoes.

Some of the best long line fine fiber flax produced in Oregon has been grown in this irrigated district. It is good flax land. There is water available for irrigating large as well as small fields.

In fact, it is possible to bring under irrigation 100,000 acres of land between Salem and Mehama, going south to the Marion and Jefferson districts, and north over Salem prairie. Perhaps more than 100,000 acres. That is going to mean much for Salem and all this section in the course of time. Will mean many new industries on the land and in the cities and towns.

Nearly every irrigation district farmer around West Salem grows some strawberries for the markets—and such strawberries! Wonderful fruit. Big yields. There is immense expansion coming in the strawberry industry there. Big profits for the growers, too.

And they grow wonderful raspberries—both the reds and the blackcaps. And a large per acre yield, too. Some small fortunes are being made there by the growers of raspberries.

Evergreen blackberries, too. With the use of irrigation, the limits of productiveness of these great pie berries of commerce are beyond belief. Eight, 10, 12 and more tons to the acre.

Dairying, Live Stock
And in dairying these irrigated lands are making a splendid showing. And sheep breeding and the live stock industry generally.

Visualize the future for that district. Think of an irrigated pasture in August or September. Note the green lawns around the state house and court house in Salem, and think what such a spectacle would be, when presented with vast tracks with green things throughout the dry season

here, when for the lack of moisture most fields and pastures are bare and brown. And this is not a mere fanciful figment of the imagination. It is coming to pass; going to be realized in a vast section contributing its annual wealth to Salem and the surrounding country and towns.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

The following is the official publication of the record of claims before the Marion county commissioners court for the Mar. term, 1927, with the amount allowed, bills continued, etc., according to the records in the office of the county clerk.

Table listing various claims and amounts for Road District No. 1 through No. 28 1/2, including names of individuals and their respective amounts.

Table listing various claims and amounts for Road District No. 19 through No. 28 1/2, including names of individuals and their respective amounts.

Table listing various claims and amounts for Road District No. 19 through No. 28 1/2, including names of individuals and their respective amounts.

(Continued on Page 12.)

BARGAINS Economy Department Second Floor

Consolidated Bargain Sale

Hundreds of pairs of dressy Pumps and Oxfords grouped here from all our stores for this tremendous Bargain Sale. Economy department, second floor.

BARGAINS Economy Department Second Floor

Visit This Sale

SALE STARTS TODAY

See the Splendid Bargains

A Selection of Splendid Style Values Up to \$9.50 on Sale Now \$3.95

Advertisement for Parchment calf novelty lace Oxfords and Patent pumps, strap and novelty step-ins, both priced at \$3.95.

Advertisement for Nevermend Silk Hose, Spring Shades, regular price \$1.00, while they last. 2 Pairs \$1.00 (Second floor).

Advertisement for Step-in pumps in parchment kid French heels, very dressy, while they last, and Satin pumps, novelty strap effects and step-ins, Cuban and French heels for dress and spring street wear, values up to \$9.50, while they last on sale at \$3.95.

BUSTER BROWN SHOE STORE TRY BUSTER BROWN FOR REAL SHOE ECONOMY