

# FARMING AND INDUSTRIAL MAGAZINE SECTION OF THE OREGON STATESMAN

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## OUR HEALTHY BOOM IN LEGUMES

Many movements are on foot or on the way that will render the Willamette valley the garden spot of the world—

Will make Salem one of the most solidly prosperous centers of a dense and contented population in all lands under the shining sun and the bending skies—

And by no means the least of these is the very healthy and fast expanding boom in legumes. If you are interested in the prosperity of this section, read the articles in this magazine section on legumes—

Read the authoritative statement that legumes in rotation in Marion and Polk counties increase the following crops from 11 to 33 per cent—

And note the many other advantages of the growing of the clovers and vetches and alfalfa and the other leguminous crops. Our boom in legumes spells great things for this section and this city. Wonderful things.

Plant growth depends upon nitrates; as much as animal life depends upon air. The legumes are the only members of the vegetable kingdom that have the power to extract nitrogen from the air and fix it in the soil—

Therefore we must grow legumes.

Each legume is a miniature nitrate factory, doing its work secretly and underground. It takes the nitrogen from the air with its leaves and makes it into nitrate with the nodules on its roots—

So every scheme of crop rotation must include legumes; clover or alfalfa or peas or beans or the vetches or other first, second or third cousins—all belonging to the great pulse family with seed pods and butterfly shaped or two-winged flowers. The legumes put into the ground the elements that are needed for the growth of all other crops.

There are two other great reasons why the Salem district in particular should grow more legumes—if it could be conceived that more reasons are necessary.

First, legumes go with dairying, and this is essentially a dairy country. We must have cows to provide soil fertilization, and we must have cows to mother our swine breeding and poultry industries. Cows must go with our orchards; both cows and cover crops of legumes. No orchard will remain thrifty without the constant renewal of the fertility of the soil.

Second, we must have honey bees. There can be no certainty of pollination without bees. The winds do not carry

the cherry blossoms at all. They must be carried by the bees. In the years when we have steady rains during the fruit blooming season, there may be partial or even total failures of pollination of any of all fruit crops without honey bees to carry the pollen, in the sunshiny hours between the showers. The bees run from 20,000 to 100,000 workers to the hive, and, where there are numerous colonies of bees, whole great orchard areas may be pollinated in an hour—

And the beekeeping industry of our district depends for its great growth and prosperity upon sweet clover, alfalfa, Hungarian vetch and the legumes generally, other than the red clover.

We must attain to the greatest legume district in the world—

With red clover, a million dollar annual crop for the seed; with Hungarian vetch going out in immense acreages; with Grimm alfalfa increasing in acreage by leaps and bounds; with all the sweet clovers and soy beans and other legumes being planted on more and more farms, and in increasing size of fields already devoted to them.

We are growing nearly all the vetch seed here for the whole of the United States—

In short, our growers, as usual, are doing fully their part. They are of a class highly deserving of their full share of all the benefits they are conferring upon the stability and prosperity of all other classes of our people by the intelligent application of their labor and facilities.

With such a country and such a class of farmers, the Salem district is certain to stand out in comparison with any other section under the shining sun.

## SPRING PLANTING LATE OVER COUNTRY

This Is True in Other Sections As Well As in the State of Oregon

Spring planting delayed by the backward season throughout much of the country is reported by the United States Department of agriculture in the April 1 issue of "The Agricultural Situation." The retarding of fruit buds, however, is considered a favorable circumstance.

Some changes from the planting intentions of farmers this spring as indicated by intentions-to-plant reports, are suggested by the bureau of agricultural economics of the department, which says any great reduction of hard spring wheat acreage in favor of durum might not be profitable in view of recent improvement in market prospects.

"If potato growers carry out their reported plans to increase acreage 12 per cent over last year, and crop yields are up to average," the bureau adds, "it will very likely mean an unfavorable market situation next fall. The largest increase seems to be planned in the east, but the west and south are also talking more potatoes. Potatoes have been a profitable crop for many growers for three years, but profits will be jeopardized this year if production is overdone, especially for growers distant from market."

"Reports indicate plans to increase slightly the corn acreage, materially increase barley, and slightly decrease oats. The country's feed requirements are relatively heavy this year because of the large number of hogs and the fact that improved prices for beef and dairy products have stimulated the use of grain, but a 24 per cent increase in barley acreage, as contemplated, would raise some questions as to the market situation for that crop next fall."

"In general, it appears that the major crops have been profitable enough to maintain their acreages and even induce some expansion this season. This applies to most crops except the horse feeds like timothy hay and oats where demand has permanently dwindled. However, in most important lines

of farm production profits are still scaled very close to the line and any marked increase in output usually brings down the price. This fact should be borne in mind this spring, particularly by growers of potatoes, barley, durum wheat and certain types of tobacco, particularly flue-cured and burley."

The movement of wheat to market during February was somewhat greater and of corn decidedly greater than during the same month last year. In the case of corn this reflects last year's crop distribution which made it necessary to move large supplies from the west to the deficient eastern territory. February movement of cattle was about like that in recent years; but the movement of sheep and lambs was substantially heavier.

## HANDLING SUMMER COLD FRAME CROPS

With early vegetables out of the frames and into the garden, the practical gardener will put the frames to work at once for valuable early summer crops, notably cucumbers or melons or to start summer squash, late season tomatoes, peppers or egg-plants. The sash will be ample protection for these tender plants until settled weather.

Early cucumbers are most prac-

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tical for the home gardener who has a frame of the usual dimensions, 6 by 6. One hill may be planted in the center of the frame and the vines may be allowed to spread out to fill it. Under the protection of the sash the vines may make good growth safe from the attacks of insect pests and by the time the covers are removed they will have sufficient start to be able to withstand the ravages of bugs that take so many of the cucumber tribe in their infancy.

One such hill will furnish early slicing cucumbers until the main crop planted in the open after danger of frosts is over comes into bearing. A hill of melons may be grown in the same manner and give an early supply of cantaloupes. By using frames some ambitious experimental gardeners have been able to ripen honeydews by giving them an early start and protecting them with the frame in the fall. This is too long a season melon for northern gardens under ordinary circumstances.

The supply of egg plants, peppers and tomatoes, however, forms the most practical use to which the cold frames can be put after the earliest crops are removed and they will be ready to transplant into the open by the second week in May where ordinarily the seed would just be going into the ground. Celery plants may also be started in the cold frames to good advantage for an early crop.

The tender annuals for the flower garden may also be given an early start of a month on the regular season. Zinnias, salvias and cosmos may be ready to go into the open ground much ahead of their usual season by starting them in the cold frame.

Set out a few plants of sage to have ready this year.

Try some of the cucumber-leaved sunflowers for the back of the annual border. They are fine cutting material and have none of the coarseness of the old-fashioned giant types.

Try a few heads of Savoy cabbage for the finest quality there is in cabbages.

Get in the radishes and spinach without delay.

Seed over any bare spots on the lawn. They will become very apparent as the grass starts into growth.

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## Dates of Slogans in Oregon Statesman

(With a few possible changes)

Loganberries, October 6, 1927

Prunes, October 13

Dairying, October 20

Flax, October 27

Filberts, November 3

Walnuts, November 10

Strawberries, November 17

Apples, Figs, Etc., Nov. 24

Raspberries, December 1

Mint, December 8

Beans, Etc., December 15

Blackberries, December 22

Cherries, December 29

Pears, January 5, 1928

Gooseberries, January 12

Corn, January 19

Celery, January 28

Spinach, Etc., February 5

Onions, Etc., February 12

Potatoes, Etc., February 19

Bees, February 26

Poultry and Pet Stock, Mar. 4

City Beautiful, Etc., March 11

Great Cows, March 18

Paved Highways, March 25

Head Lettuce, April 1

Silos, Etc., April 8

Legumes, April 15

Asparagus, Etc., April 22

Grapes, Etc., April 29

Drug Garden, May 6

Sugar Industry, May 13

Water Powers, May 20

Irrigation, May 27

Mining, June 3

Land, Irrigation, Etc., June 10

Floriculture, June 17

Hops, Cabbage, Etc., June 24

Wholesaling, Jobbing, July 1

Cucumbers, Etc., July 8

Hogs July 15

Goats, July 22

Schools, July 29

Sheep, August 5

Seeds, August 12

National Advertising, Aug. 19

Livestock, August 26

Grain & Grain Products, Sept. 2

Manufacturing, Sept. 9

Woodworking, Etc., Sept. 16

Automotive Industries, Sept. 23

Paper Mills, Sept. 30

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