

# Salem Is To Become a Great Grape Industry Center

## Fiala Grape Juice Factory In First Season of Going Shows Very Good Progress

About Sixty Tons or Enough to Fill 120,000 Pint Bottles Pressed Last Year, and Sales Being Made Over Two States

For ten years and much longer the Slogon pages and news and editorial columns of The Statesman have been predicting that some day grape juice factories would be located in the Salem district, because we can produce here, and all along have been growing a high quality juice grape, of the vitis labrusca or northern fox varieties, of the Concord family, such as are used for pressing for juice in the great grape districts of northern New York, Pennsylvania and adjoining states.

There have been some experiments made in a small way here during all these years. But last year the owners of the Fiala yards near Salem commenced manufacturing grape juice on a considerable scale—the first undertaking of this kind with sufficient volume to command wide attention. These people last fall pressed about half their crop, or about 60 tons; enough to make up the equivalent in quantity of about 120,000 pint bottles.

### Our Largest Planting

The Fiala vineyards make up the largest single plantings of grapes in the Salem district. Frank Fiala, succeeded for several years, started growing grapes for table use for the northwest markets 30 years ago. Now his son, Arthur J. Fiala, carries on the business. This farm is located just three miles from the Salem end of the bridge across the Willamette river; a mile east of the Wallace road in Pork county. Near the river; rich bottom land. The Fiala farm produces only one variety; a sport of the Campbell's Early. For 27 years it grew here, where also on earth. It is originated on that farm. For the past three seasons plants have been sold to the public, and soon this variety will have a wide distribution, especially in the Salem district. These grapes have been given to the fruit stands of the Pacific northwest, in fancy jugs bearing the name, "Fiala Vineyards." They have sold year after year on quality. The vines are trained high; the Fiala way; peculiar to itself—to get the sunlight and produce a delicious fruit. The production has lately been running to as much as 120 tons a year, from 16 acres. It increases with the age of the vines—and there is no known end to the life of a grape vine.

The Fiala farm has 34 acres of land in all; 11 acres now being in asparagus; fancy quality; nicely branded and properly marketed. The 1929 crop is just now beginning to go to the markets.

This is a business, run on a farm. A family affair. Has a trade name that is valuable. Mrs. Frank Fiala, mother of Arthur, may properly be called the senior member of the family business. This is an arrangement that is rather unique in this section, though not so in older countries. It is one that might and no doubt will be followed here in many cases, developing and passing on established lines on the land from father to son, from generation to generation.

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## MUCH ALFALFA IS GROWN IN YAMHILL

Arceage Has Increased Five Hundred Percent in the Past Two Years

Editor Statesman: We have increased alfalfa acreage in Yamhill county during the past two years over 500 percent. There were some 240 acres of alfalfa, principally growing on bottom lands, and at present we believe there are at least 2,000 acres. Where the soil is well drained, deep and fairly fertile, plowed in the fall, with an application of lime applied immediately after plowing and where the soil is worked shallow but very firm, seeded May 10 to June 1, we have had no failures. It is interesting to note that where alfalfa has been seeded on poorly drained, acid or spring plowed soil without the use of lime or without thorough rolling or firming of seed bed, we have very few, if any, successful seedings.

Uses of Lime Important In many cases the use of lime has meant the difference between success and failure. In observations made, early seedings universally result in weedy or foul growing conditions. Again, where the ground is left loose the plants dry out, and we find patchy or unsatisfactory stands.

Stem rot in alfalfa is rather serious. It attacks the alfalfa plant in the same way clover is affected, especially the second year. The common type of alfalfa is more subject to this disease than is the true Grimm.

We are not growing very much asparagus in Yamhill county. Very little, if any, commercial plantings are to be found, but on the sandy type of river bottom soil, found along the Willamette river, asparagus would do nicely, and a few of the growers are expecting to grow this crop. As yet information concerning this is not available.

S. T. WHITE,  
County Agent,  
McMinnville, Or., April 23, 1929.

## NEW KNIFE HANDY

The handy man has designed a new knife for digging weeds out of the lawn. Take an ordinary old fashioned kitchen knife, file the end off square, then cut or file a V-shaped notch in the center. The cutting edge which is the entire end of the knife, must be filed and kept sharp. The long blade enables the workman to cut the root of the weed far below the crown, and a small twist of the blade loosens the soil so that the weed may be lifted out easily without leaving an unsightly hole.

Read the Classified Ads.

## Grape Juice, Jelly and Jam Factories

The Statesman has for years been saying and repeating that we should have grape juice, jelly and jam factories here. In the early stages of this propaganda work this seemed a far cry; an iridescent dream. But it does not appear in that light now. We have our first grape juice factory, connected with and a part of the Fiala Vineyards, the largest operation of its kind here, and one of the oldest and most unique. The grape juice output of this industry on the land is having an encouraging development. Founded on quality, it has the earmarks and the promise of a large and increasing success. It is likely to reach far beyond the products of the original planting for its raw materials.

Salem has had some grape jelly and jelly manufacturing in past years, and there are prospects for larger operations in this line here soon. That Salem may become the Westfield of Oregon, and this district the chautauqua grape growing belt of the Pacific coast, there is no doubt, because we can produce a superior article here, in the vitis labrusca or northern fox varieties, of the Concord family, the grape juice kinds. We can turn out a quality product, and that is the touchstone of success. There is a great field open here in these lines, and it is high time our people occupied it. And it is encouraging to be able to note that an ambitious beginning has been made by one of the pioneer families of this section.

## LAND PLASTER AID TO GOOD SEED CORN

Almost phenomenal results from the addition of small quantities of land plaster when field corn is planted have been obtained by Oregon farmers and in trial plots conducted by the experiment station for several years. Strangely enough, the exact reason for the effect on the crop has not yet been determined, but as the amount needed is so inexpensive and the results are so uniformly beneficial, the station is recommending it unqualifiedly for general use. The experiment station recommends about equal pounds of land

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plaster and corn to the acre. That is, if 8 pounds of seed is used, sow 3 pounds of land plaster with it. The cost of this amount is but five cents an acre yet it has given increased yields amounting to more than seven bushels for the year tests that have been made. If a corn planter is used a fertilizer attachment will add the land plaster in direct contact with the seed, which is best for this but not all other types of fertilizer. If corn is planted by hand a half teaspoonful may be added to each hill, or the seed may be moistened and dusted with the land plaster before planting.



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