

News of Markets - Crops - Livestock and 4-H Club Activity

A Feature Page - of The Statesman on Every Sunday

The Valley Agriculturist and His Work -

WHITE CLOVER MAY BE GROWN

Years of Experimenting May be of Great Value To Dairymen

White sweet clover pasture may soon become more than a dairyman's dream in Benton county and western Oregon. At least, more than 15 years' efforts to make it a reality on the Oregon experiment station here apparently has reached the place where success is possible, according to H. A. Schott, associate agronomist.

Chief among the features which led experimenters of the western Oregon section to try this and again to grow this white sweet clover is, probably, its ability to produce abundant pasture during the summer months, without irrigation. If it could be grown, Schott believes, it would go far toward filling the need of a summer pasture in the Willamette valley, where lack of such a crop is largely responsible for the high cost of producing butterfat. In addition, it is a good soil building crop.

At Corvallis, Oregon, in dairy sections of a eastern Oregon repeated attempts by dairymen to grow it in the Willamette valley failed because of its unusual susceptibility to stem rot, a disease which attacks all legumes in western Oregon and Washington to a greater or less extent.

With persistence, however, a small plot of sweet clover was planted year after year on the Oregon experiment station farm at Corvallis. Repeatedly, it flourished abundantly the first year, only to succumb to stem rot disease the second year.

Finally, in 1921, while viewing the ruin of another of these second year crops, one small plant was found unharmed. It had resisted the stem rot disease. Seed saved.

The seed from this plant was saved and planted. A few of the plants from this seedling succumbed to the stem rot disease and the seed from the others was saved. As the plant is a biennial, it produces seed only every second year, and to date five seed crops have been harvested.

The last four plantings have shown no sign of whatever disease. Last year, the progeny of that first plant produced 500 pounds of seed, enough for approximately 35 acres. Most of this is being ported out to farmers in Benton, Clackamas, Linn, Lane, and Polk counties for trial under varying conditions. Some of it has also gone to experiment stations in Canada and Washington for trial, in exchange for other trial seed.

Five acres are growing on the experimental farm this year. This will be pastured this summer and tested for carrying capacity, according to Schott.

Potato Profits Depend Largely Upon Quality

The profit which Oregon potato growers realize from their crop this year will depend considerably on their ability to produce a large percentage of high grade potatoes, keeping the amount of lower grade or No. 2 tubers down to a minimum, says E. R. Jackman, extension specialist in farm crops at Oregon State college.

Paper Mulch Technique is New Here but Well Known To Gardeners in Hawaii



Paper mulch gardening, brought to this country from the pineapple fields of Hawaii, is rapidly being developed to fit the needs of varied crops and conditions. For home gardeners with limited space to devote to vegetables paper mulch offers the following advantages: Increased yield, earlier harvest, and the elimination of hard work in cultivation. Strips of paper, waterproofed with asphalt come in the standard widths of 18 and 36 inches. These are laid on the soil after it has been prepared and smoothed. Crops are sown either in holes which are made through the paper, or in narrow rows of soil exposed between the paper strips. The mulch has two effects on the soil beneath it: It raises the temperature and checks evaporation. It also prevents the growth of weeds and gives the desired crops a monopoly of the plant food in the soil.

Experience with paper mulch in home gardens has shown the need in many localities where high winds are frequent of some method of holding the paper down, other than the device of piling earth on the edges. The preferred method in commercial plantings. The most satisfactory fastening for small gardens has been found to be placing stove wire, binder twine or laths along each edge of the paper, tying it down with wire staples every three or four feet.

MARASCHINOS CAN BE MADE HERE

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, June 13.—A successful process of manufacturing Oregon white cherries into maraschino stock, recently announced here by the division of horticultural products of the experiment station, has now been published in detail in a new experiment station bulletin just off the press. It is entitled, "Bleaching and Dyeing Royal Ann Cherries for Maraschino or Fruit Salad Use".

That this commercial process, now made public for the first time for unrestricted use by the trade, will make possible a profitable outlet for Oregon white cherries is the opinion of the researchers, D. E. Ballis and E. H. Wigand, who have carried out the tests over a period of several years.

It is pointed out that while the canning trade is reluctant to use the white cherries, this country annually imports around 70,000 barrels of brined cherries for the maraschino trade. Last year some 10,000 barrels were brined on Oregon to supply part of this demand.

With the process fairly well established a year ago, two canning plants and one other organization tried the method out on a commercial scale with complete success. While it is known that some shipments of brined cherries were rejected because of damage or spoilage, those processed according to the system worked out here arrived in the east in excellent condition.

Already many more canneries in Oregon are prepared to use the process this year and thus afford a greater market for the white cherries. Even the smaller light colored cherries, heretofore discounted drastically in the trade, are suitable for brining. Investigations on time of picking for brining show that best results are had if the harvesting is done just before the cherries reach their full maturity.

The new bulletin contains complete directions for commercial processing of the cherries, including bleaching, hardening, leaching and pitting, dyeing and flavoring.

HAY CROP HEAVY
HUBBARD, June 13.—Clover hay is in full swing here and a bumper crop is reported. Several farmers, having filled their barns, are stacking the extra hay.

PROGRAM ENJOYED
JEFFERSON, June 13.—The Social Hour club sponsored a delightful evening, when a social was given at the DeVaney school house on June 12. An interesting feature of the evening was the comedy, "Chintz Cottage," which was given by the following cast: Margaret Denmore, Margaret Gola, Frances Gola, Melvin Epley, James Ashford, Helen Epley, Margaret Kelly. At the close of the program ice cream and candy were sold.

ON VACATION
BETHANY, June 13.—Miss Bianca Jorgenson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Jorgenson, has arrived at her home here for the summer vacation. Miss Jorgenson has been teaching at Stanwood, Washington, the past year and will return again next year.

HALF CROP OF PRUNES PROBABLE

Conditions Vary and Present Estimate Said to Be Uncertain

The Pacific northwest will have about half a crop of dried prunes this fall, according to unofficial reports from growers in the various producing districts of western Oregon and Washington. Half a crop means possibly 50,000,000 pounds, compared with last year's quarter-crop production of 25,000,000 pounds, and the full-sized bumper output of 112,000,000 pounds in 1929.

Conditions vary widely in the different districts and even within the same locality, due probably to the irregular weather conditions of recent months. Some orchards give indications of heavy production, while others in the same neighborhood are almost barren.

The north and south extremes of the districts show the lightest prospects. The central section, lying between Salem and Dallas north to Portland has the brightest prospects. Douglas county and Clark county, Washington, will have very light crops this season, according to present indications. This condition is an exact reversal of last year's situation, in which the central district had the lowest yields, with Douglas and Clark counties approaching nearest normal production.

California Uncertain
The California prune situation is summarized in the May report of the department of agriculture as follows:

"It is exceedingly difficult to prepare information at this time that will reasonably well indicate the production of prunes. This is largely due to the fact that the important prune counties of Santa Clara, Sonoma, Napa and Solano originally set good crops, but are unusually short of moisture supply, which may result in a heavy drop before the maturity date is reached, or of much smaller-sized fruit. The state of California shows a condition of 62, which is made up of a large number of growers, well distributed in the important producing areas. A year ago the condition was 73, which gradually increased to 82 at harvest time. Reports by county groups are as follows: North coast counties, 88; bay and central coast counties, 61; Sacramento Valley, 63; San Joaquin Valley, 68; Sierra mountain counties, 82; and southern counties, 20. Heavy rainfall May 23 to 25 may improve moisture conditions slightly, with resultant improvement of condition."

Frog Farm is To be Started

INDEPENDENCE, June 13.—Lee Hershberger has purchased a farm 14 acre tract of land near Canby, where he is going to raise bullfrogs on a commercial scale. Ponds will be constructed, as running water flows through the place.

Mr. Hershberger has purchased several pairs of frogs and will add more later. These frogs are raised for table purposes and are much larger than the common variety, weighing about 3 1/2 pounds when two years old.

Mr. Hershberger will continue to make his home in Independence leaving some one to care for this frog farm.

CROPS UNSATISFACTORY

AURORA, June 13.—Early crop conditions in this territory are unsatisfactory. The strawberry crop is short and on account of color the growers are being docked from 19 to 50 per cent. cherries are also scarce and the price unsatisfactory. Prospects for a fair yield of loganberries are very good. Picking in some yards is expected to begin Monday.

African Grass May be of Value To Dairymen

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP)—A species of African grass, grown to a height of 16 feet on the South Texas farm of E. W. Gruss, may aid the dairyman who no longer has the open range to draw on for feeding.

Gruss has experimented with the grass, called Napier, for 12 years. For years he was a United States government agricultural agent. With the aid of the department at Washington he obtained a number of roots to begin his work.

As cow feed, he said, the large leaves are also scarce and the price unsatisfactory. Prospects for a fair yield of loganberries are very good. Picking in some yards is expected to begin Monday.

ASPARAGUS CULTURE OFFERS PROBLEMS

Age and sex of Plants are Important Factors in Growing

Editor's Note.—The following article recently published in "Better Fruit" was written by Charles E. Durr and is reprinted here because of the general interest in asparagus as a possible commercial crop for this section of the Willamette valley.

For years there has been discussion among growers as to what age of asparagus plants will give the best results. Many of the older growers still cling to the idea that two-year-old plants are best. They do undoubtedly give a better stand and probably a better crop in the first few years of the patch, but all of the experimental stations which have conducted tests on the matter, so far as I know, assert that one-year-old plants are the best.

In recent years the sex question in asparagus has also received a lot of consideration. It now seems pretty well settled that the male plants will give better results than the females, and that the mortality is less among male plants than among the females. Thus, a patch composed entirely of male plants, if it could be secured, would appear to be the better.

Blooms Second Season
However, asparagus does not bloom until the second season after planting the seed, so that it is impossible to sex the plants at one year of age and also determine which are males and which are females. The question arises to whether it is possible to reconcile the two factors so as to receive the benefit of both.

The Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment station suggested a couple of years ago that the seeds be planted in the late summer so that the plants would be able to make a small growth yet that season, then taken up, separated, and set out one by one the following season. Plants handled this way will bloom the following season after planting the seed.

The station authorities reasoned that this method might give the desired result. The Massachusetts station also stated that asparagus plants could be multiplied rather quickly by division of the old crowns.

In this way one could obtain male plants exclusively, and the superior plants of a large patch could also be chosen. Along with these questions comes that of selection of the

Oysters From Your Garden As Palatable as From Cans

Vegetable oysters, so called, furnish an attractive vegetable for the menu when their preparation for the table is properly understood.

The vegetable oyster, oyster plant, or salinity with the parsnip and kale furnish three vegetables that may be gathered in the garden at any time during the winter. They are three vegetables that withstand anything in the way of frozes and their flavor is improved thereby. The vegetable oyster gets its name because when cooked its flavor resembles that of the oyster. It is a vegetable requiring a long season of growth to develop its roots which are not large even when grown to the full extent of the plant's capability. It thrives under the same conditions as the parsnip—a light, rich soil, without fresh manure, regular watering, and a soil should be deeply prepared, as the root makes good depth.

Mammoth Sandwich Island is one of the best varieties, making the most desirable roots and most regular. Some varieties show a tendency to make branching roots, the branches of which are so small as to make them useless.

strong plants. Experienced growers are unanimous in stating that the strongest plants, with thick roots, and crowns having not too many buds, will produce the best results. One of the best growers I have ever known states that he can increase the productivity of a patch throughout its life 50 per cent by careful selection of the plants.

Plants Separated
The matter of separation of the growing plants also presents a problem. As the seeds are sown, it is impossible to separate them so that no two or more plants will appear. In such cases the roots and crowns will be intertwined so that it will be impossible to select the males from the females without digging them up.

Taking all these factors into consideration, it would appear that the method of the Massachusetts experiment station or a modification of it, would have promise and would at least be worthy of trial. The seeds could be sown either in the spring or in the late summer. The plants could be taken up in the late fall or mulched and dug in the spring. In either case they would be separated carefully, selected rigidly, and planted one in a place six to eight inches apart in rows about three feet apart. The plants

would bloom during the following summer and the female plants could be dug out as soon as discovered.

Thus, one would have only male plants to plant in the permanent plantation. It is an open question, in my opinion, whether the transplanting would not keep the plants "young" through the encouragement of new root growth and thus cause the plants to set much as one-year-olds. It is possible that the use of male plants, coupled with the transplanting and the double selection of crowns that would be possible by this method, would more than offset the disadvantage of using two-year-old roots.

RUSSIA SAMPLES AMERICAN MARKET

Russia works the world for markets. Recently, reports our American commercial attaché in Bogota, she shipped free of charge to a large flour mill concern in Columbia sacks of wheat for experimental milling purposes in competition with wheat grown in America. This wheat is similar in size, color and shape of kernel to that grown in Manitoba. The milling firm receiving this sample has been supplied heretofore with wheat from the United States.

SELF-HELP CLOTHES NEWEST DEVICE

Both Mothers and wee Ones Aided by Latest Designs

Self-help garments, designed to save time for busy mothers as well as encourage habits of self-reliance in children, constitute the latest thing for the well-dressed three and four year old this year, says Mrs. Harriet K. Sinnard, extension specialist in clothing at Oregon State college.

A group of small dresses and suits for little tots of this age have been designed by the bureau of home economics, U. S. department of agriculture, and several sample outfits have recently been received by Mrs. Sinnard for inspection.

The average child of three years is old enough to begin to dress and undress himself, if his clothing is simply designed and without complicated fastenings, Mrs. Sinnard says. This is not only a help to mothers but the child enjoys it and develops through it a feeling of self-reliance.

Among the features of the new garments which facilitate manipulation by small chubby fingers are few buttons and buttonholes, but where needed, these are large enough to be easily grasped. Trousers have simple side openings instead of the usual pockets. This allows the front and back to open independently, and each button has but one buttonhole. In many cases trousers have simulated pockets which form drop fronts.

Bloomers and trousers in many cases are fastened to an underwaist of light weight cotton mesh. This makes an ideal sun suit, according to Mrs. Sinnard. Simple little dresses and overblouses to match the bloomers and trousers are provided. These may be slipped on over the sun suits and little son or daughter is all dressed up and ready for a trip to town.

Other aids to comfort and freedom for the youngsters are sleeves above the elbows, trousers above the knees, and no floppy collars. The collars, where used, are sewed down, which makes for ease in ironing.

Information regarding patterns for the new garments may be obtained from home demonstration agents, or from Mrs. Sinnard at the college.

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MARION COUNTY GRANGERS HONORED

At the state grange meeting at Medford Mrs. Ellen G. Lambert of Stayton grange No. 340, Stayton, was appointed a member of the home economics committee to take the place made vacant by the resignation of Mrs. Daisy Bump. Mrs. Lambert has been a member of the grange over 27 years and is past master.

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