

A Feature Page -
of The Statesman
on
Every Sunday

The Valley Agriculturist and His Work -

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

OREGON CROP LOOK FAIR

Recent Rains Benefit Some
Types but Injure Many
Others

All Oregon field and fruit crops are below average condition as of June first according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. At the time this report was made up, deterioration was going on at a rapid rate, particularly in the wheat section in the Columbia Basin and during the first week of June wheat prospects assumed a more serious aspect than was apparent on the first, when the condition of Winter Wheat in the Columbia Basin averaged around 70% and spring wheat averaged about 71%.

In some sections of the dry farming wheat area the condition of the wheat crop dropped from 5 to 10 points during the first week of June. Continued dry weather with below normal subsoil moisture renders it imperative that rains come soon if a satisfactory yield is to be harvested. Winter wheat condition in other sections of the state, however, cause the state average to be considerably higher and the estimate is 81% on the first of June with reports in all sections stating that the crop was rapidly approaching a critical stage where unless prospects would be materially reduced. The June first estimate of 20.5, therefore, is out of date to that extent and the production estimate of 16,687,000 bu. on June first has been cut since that date. The five year average production is 17,454,000 bu.

The June first estimate of Oregon Spring wheat condition is 78% but since the first of the month, considerable deterioration has occurred. The June first condition last year was 90% and the five year average is 88%.

Oats Low
The oats crop is ten points below the condition reported last year on this date and eight points below the ten year average of 92.

Oregon barley shows a corresponding spread between the current figure of 82% and that of a year ago which was estimated at 92%. The condition is 90%.

The rice crop will yield 12.5 bu. per acre if normal conditions prevail the remainder of the season. If this yield is realized, the total crop will amount to 138,000 bu. compared to 126,000 bu. harvested last year.

The condition of all Oregon hay crops is much below average with alfalfa making the best showing due, no doubt, to the fact that a considerable portion of the crop is grown under irrigation. However, irrigation water has been so dry that many projects. Rain was needed badly on the first of the month in every section of the state.

The chief reason for the low June first condition of Oregon apples is the fact that the current season is an off year for several important commercial varieties. However, unfavorable weather conditions have had some effect but for an off season the prospects are fair to good with the state average condition estimated at 68% compared to 85% on June last year. The ten year average is 81%.

Peach prospects are for a little over one-half normal crop. Due to unfavorable weather during the spring, including damage by frost, wind, dust and drought, the estimated production is 216,000 bu. compared to 280,000 bu. harvested last year.

Oregon pear production is estimated at about two-thirds of normal or 2,310,000 bu. The drought and threatened shortage of irrigation water in principal production areas, together with some frost and blight damage, are all responsible for the present outlook.

In the case of cherries, the Oregon crop is estimated at exactly one-half of normal.

Fresh prunes, which originate chiefly in eastern Oregon, show a condition of 81 points which is considerably above the crop in western Oregon which goes chiefly for drying. The condition of Oregon prunes for drying is estimated at one-half or 50% of normal.

Swiss Chard 'Tree' At Waconda Object Of Much Curiosity

By MRS. ALLEN NUSOM
A freak of the vegetable kingdom is a swiss chard "tree" growing in the garden at the George Lemery place near Waconda. This plant, now eight feet in height, was first noticed in the seed a year ago this spring. It has grown, since, like the proverbial turnip in Mr. Finney's garden and Mr. Lemery is letting it grow unmolested, curious to know just what height it will attain. The recent rains will undoubtedly increase the size of the plant.

Nine of the 10 stems were apparently too slender to remain upright longer, and have fallen to the ground, leaving one stalk eight feet in height and 14 inches around at its base. The leaves measure 18 inches in length and six inches across.

The unusual size of this swiss chard plant, a variety of greens which seldom becomes more than two feet high, has created some curiosity here.



For earliest radishes the little round-rooted or turnip-shaped type is best. For the later crop, the long-rooted radishes are the standby and the ones that give you more than one bite per radish. In some ways they are more satisfactory than the tiny little first earlies. Of these second early and long-rooted radishes, the handsome clear white-rooted Icicle has seized upon popular favor to a large extent. It deserves it, for its quality is fully up to its handsome appearance.

This radish makes a length of six inches with about a third of its length above ground so it is always easy to see whether the root is of proper size for pulling. It is one of the crispest and tenderest of radishes and of the highest quality. Its roots are uniform in size and shape where given opportunities for development unrestricted by overcrowding in the rows. Icicle radishes should be included in the seed order.

Long scarlet is one of the best of the long-rooted red varieties and a standard of excellence in flavor and tenderness. It matures in a month and is one of the most reliable of radishes to plant, lacking in the early pithiness of some of the older long types.

Late Crop Possible

After the early radishes, which cannot be relied upon in warm weather, as they become strong, pithy and run up to seed, the main dependence is in a small class of radishes with larger roots which retain their crisp quality well into the summer and grow to much larger size than the early sorts. These are the summer radishes, most of them white-rooted. There are four varieties of about equal quality. Improved Chatter is a red-rooted variety much larger than long scarlet and white tipped.

Long white Vienna, white Stuttgart, and white Strassburg are other sorts. Stuttgart is turnip-shaped, the others being long-rooted. These have long been grown by German gardeners, but have not been so well known to the average gardener. They are useful to prolong the radish season. Following them for later planting are the huge root—as radishes go—winter class. Try a row of summer radishes this year. You will like them. One of their chief values is to slice in salads to pep them up, the roots being large enough for the purpose.

Cauliflower Needs Care
Cauliflowers are the most tempting of vegetables in appearance, particularly on show tables and as displayed in markets. The snowy heads are always attractive and the production of cauliflower as a professional grower turn out is a worthy ambition for the home gardener and one he can easily accomplish.

Cauliflowers are no more difficult to grow than cabbage, need exactly the same conditions, the same protection from the green "worms" that speedily riddle the leaves, and the same cultivation. The extra care they demand is the protection of the "flower" or curd. When the tiny white button appears in the center of the plant the grower must begin looking after his cauliflower if he wants to develop this miniature head into a big snowily "flower." They must be protected from direct sunlight; if they are to become fine and white. Exposure to the sunlight will develop green and yellow coloring that is not attractive.

The protection consists of tying the big leaves that surround the flower by the tips so that they will shade the developing curd. These big leaves should be tied loosely so that they will not cramp or crowd the developing head. This should have room to develop evenly and naturally.

WESTERN CELERY IS IN DEMAND

The excellence of celery produced in the Pacific Northwest is recognized in the principal consuming centers of the United States. About 1000 carloads are shipped from this section annually.

Usually celery is a profitable commercial product. To this, however, the 1930 crop was an exception. The financial returns to the growers being the lowest in many years and generally conceded to be less than cost of production.

Western Oregon produces about two-thirds of the 1000 cars while the Lahliah Meadows near Salem and the southwestern Idaho section produces 90 percent of the northwestern output.

The low prices last season were due chiefly to quality production and to general economic depression, which affected this crop, since it is generally considered more or less of a luxury.

The acreage of this crop is somewhat limited and production fluctuates only slightly, so that with the return of normal times, improved markets should prevail.

Johnny Butler, manager of the Denver Western league team, fined players \$25 every time they oversteered the 11:30 curfew this spring.

Cauliflowers in the home garden can be placed more closely in the rows than in field culture as they will be tended by hand and will stand 18 inches apart happily under the conditions of hand cultivation. There was formerly a belief that the cauliflower was much more tender and difficult to grow than cabbage. This is not true. It will thrive equally well with its close relative under the same conditions of good soil and culture.

Early Snowball and Extra Early Dwarf Erfurt are fine garden varieties. Danish Giant is recommended for its unusual drought resistant qualities. It will thrive in communities subject to dry spells in summer where other varieties will not. Early Snowball needs 75 days to provide a head of good quality. Danish Giant needs 90 days.

SALT CURE IS EFFECTIVE

Dreaded "man in the
Ground" Killed by
Treatment

DALLAS, June 20—Another pest that is threatening to become serious in many Polk county fields is that of wild gourd or man-in-the-ground. A. R. Cadle, well known farmer of the Rick-reall community, tried the method last year of pouring a pint of salt into a hole dug in the side of the root. Approximately 150 plants were killed through the use of 300 pounds of salt.

Mr. Cadle describes the method he used as follows: "We took ordinary coarse salt and used a tomato can for a measuring cup. We would scrape the dirt away until we came to the big pumpkin like root that is characteristic of this plant. Then using an ordinary three-inch post hole digger, we made a hole in it. In this hole we poured the salt and covered it up."

Oregon Pioneers Told Of Scenic Wonders of the Wallowa Lake Country

MRS. ALLYN NUSOM
One of Oregon's choicest treasures scenically is the beautiful Wallowa Lake in eastern Oregon. This lake in the old days was famous for its fishing. Governor T. T. Geer tells some almost unbelievable tales of the fishing to be had here 50 years ago when Wallowa county was still a part of Union county. At that time elk, bear and deer were plentiful throughout the country. In 1875, Mr. Geer spent a part of the summer at Wallowa lake. In those days no body of water in the world of that size held such an immense supply of fish. These fish averaged eighteen inches in size, and were of a red color, having the general appearance and flavor of Chinook salmon.

In this "Switzerland of America," as the surrounding country of Wallowa lake has been called, the Nez Perce Indians made their homes until the advent of the white men. These were their hunting grounds and Wallowa lake was their favorite fishing resort. It was to retain possession of it that Chief Joseph made his stand against the white settlers in 1878.

Who knows but the Governor Geer party pitched camp where formerly a wigwam stood? Anyway, after two days in camp the men went to the head of the lake, reaching it by means of an Indian trail along the eastern side. As incredible as it sounds, he says the surface of the water had a reddish cast from the thousands of fish which were evidently feeding from the deposits coming from the mountains.

Members of the party decided to take home with them to Cove, in Union county, a few barrels of fish. Within two hours two large

barrels were brimful of fish. These were placed on the back of the wagon. There were no roads at that time and it was necessary to drive by the lay of the country, selecting the smoothest ground. About six miles of rough going had been accomplished, when in crossing a shallow gulch the barrels fell from the wagon and collapsed. Fish spread in every direction.

This occurred about where the town of Enterprise now stands. The fishing party arrived at Cove, with a dozen or so fish, and as it was August and they had no brine these fish were presented to their friends—the strongest kind of evidence that they had really been to Wallowa lake.

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4-50-21 Ford	5.49	5.69	11.10		5-50-21 Buick	7.90	7.90	15.30
4-75-19 Chevrolet	6.65	6.65	12.90		5-50-21 Oldsmobile	8.57	8.57	16.70
4-75-19 Chevrolet	6.75	6.75	13.10		5-50-21 Ford	8.75	8.75	17.00
5-50-19 Chrysler	6.98	6.98	13.40		5-50-19 Dodge	8.90	8.90	17.30
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