

Gooseberries Yield Good Harvest

Grower Admits They Take Care and Much Cultivation

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Statesman Farm Editor

"If you put it in the paper that we've never had a gooseberry crop failure, everybody'll be planting gooseberries," said C. W. Grabenhorst, who has grown gooseberries for the past 12 years, and says it's the truth that he has never had a crop failure in that time, nor has he known anyone else who has had a failure.

"But," he added, as an afterthought, "they'll take 'em out again, once they try harvesting them."

However, unless gooseberry fields are "taken care of from the time they are set out until the time they are dug out," to quote Mr. Grabenhorst, "you don't have very good yields."

We caught Mr. Grabenhorst and his son, C. W. Grabenhorst, Jr., "taking care" of their field. They were, each with his own horse and cultivator, working between the rows. Following this there will be hoeing, much after the fashion of hops. But there isn't nearly as much work with the gooseberries as there are with hops, the grower reported, adding that, of course, gooseberries "don't bring a \$1 a pound."

Last year, Mr. Grabenhorst said he harvested 28 tons from an eight-acre field, and 24 tons from another of the same size. These fields were five and six years old. Growers paid 1 1/2 cents a pound last year for picking, and expect to pay about the same again this year. The 1943 price of 8 1/2 cents a pound will probably also "carry over," Mr. Grabenhorst thought.

All of Mr. Grabenhorst's plants are the Champion varieties. There are other varieties than this, he said, but they were not grown for commercial purposes. Gooseberries are best planted in the spring—early spring. The first spring following, this grower cuts his bushes "to mere stubs," to encourage new shoots of wood. When the bushes are two years old, they usually yield a small crop. Their good bearing years start with their third year and continue, with good care, to their eighth when they begin to taper off again.

Spraying is quite a problem, Mr. Grabenhorst reported, telling that he had to pay a boy 75 cents an hour to drive the horse while he sprayed.

In February or early March, a lime sulphur spray, 100 gallons to the acre, is used. As soon as the fruit is set, Bordeaux is used to control anthracnose.

Mr. Grabenhorst said that in the Pringle district, where he has his 23 acres of berries, the growers are not so much bothered with wormy fruit as they have been elsewhere. Only once has he found it necessary to spray with the lead-arsenate-molasses spray which controls these. The root borers, we gathered, did much more damage, and as yet no particular control measures were being used to fight this pest.

But if plants are kept growing healthily, if they are planted far enough apart to permit plenty of air circulation, and if weeds are kept out of the fields, gooseberry bushes give a good yield and are not "too hard to manage."

May Day Observed With Gay Flowers For Friendship

UNIONVALE—Mrs. Josephine Jones and Mrs. Dora Hayes of Whitson were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Launer and family, Kenneth L. Montgomery of Denver, was a Sunday guest at the same home. Mr. and Mrs. Launer accompanied him to Portland Sunday on a business trip.

Betty Jo Strawn was complimented on her birthday, April 30. May day was observed Monday when many young people laden with lovely arm bouquets quietly presented them to elderly friends in the traditional and antiquated method.

Plans by patrons of the district for the last day of school, May 17, when a picnic with athletic sports will be held.

Townsend Club Holds Community Dinner

DAYTON—Twenty-eight members of the Dayton Townsend club attended the semi-monthly meeting Monday at the Charles W. Hagan home.

A community dinner was served. Fred Hettmansperger, the president, will be the next host at his home.

Dan Harmon for Congress

We'd rather be represented in Congress by Dan Harmon, a sound business man and farmer who has had years of experience in foreign countries, than to be represented by a "wise politician" who lacks both practical experience and knowledge of foreign affairs. A vote for Harmon is a vote for free enterprise, free agriculture and practical legislation.

—Newberg Graphic, Pd. Adv.

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden

Consider the Soil

And Muse Grass Mixtures Best Suited to Its Conditions

By W. G. NIBLER

In selecting a mixture of grasses, it seems advisable to consider seriously the soil conditions under which the grass is to grow and with what weeds it is to compete. It is suggested that the description of grasses be considered carefully before deciding on a mixture. The following are a few general suggestions on mixtures:

THIN OR FERNY HILL LAND

Mixture 1	Mixture 2
Chewings Fescue 4	Chewings Fescue 3
Creeping Red Fescue 4	Highland Bent Grass 3
Orchard Grass 5	Orchard Grass 5
Subterranean Clover 3	Subterranean Clover 3

LOGGED-OFF OR CULTIVATED HILL LAND

Mixture 1	Mixture 2	Mixture 3
Chewings Fescue 3	Alta Fescue 10	Alta Fescue 7
Orchard Grass 5	Chewings Fescue 4	Tall Oat Grass 5
Perennial Rye Grass 5	Perennial Rye Grass 5	Perennial Rye Grass 4
Creeping Red Fescue 3	Subterranean Clover 3	Chewings Fescue 4
Subterranean Clover 3		Subterranean Clover 3

WELL-DRAINED VALLEY SOILS

Mixture 1	Mixture 2	Mixture 3
Alta Fescue 5	Alta Fescue 5	Orchard Grass 7
Orchard Grass 5	Orchard Grass 5	Tall Oat Grass 5
Perennial Rye Grass 5	Chewings Fescue 4	Perennial Rye Grass 5
Subterranean Clover 3	Subterranean Clover 3	Creeping Red Fescue 3

WHITE LAND AND SWALE LAND

Mixture 1	Mixture 2
Alta Fescue 12	Alta Fescue 10
Perennial Rye Grass 6	Orchard Grass 5
Alfalfa Clover 3	Chewings Fescue 4

Chewings fescue should not be included in a mixture for dairy cows. Creeping red fescue may be substituted for chewings in any of the mixtures, particularly if dairy cows are to be pastured. Use plenty of fescue seed on thistle-infested ground. Orchard grass, creeping red fescue and chewings fescue are the shade grasses. Orchard grass and tall oat grass will usually not stand up under sheep grazing. Give some thought to growing your own seed supply of some of these grasses. An acre or two harvested will seed a lot of land. Some of these seeds are hard to buy or are expensive but can be grown at a low cost.

Loose seed beds cause the greatest number of failures. A good pasture mixture costs money and the field is left down several years. A good seed bed to get a good stand is money well spent. Plow soon enough to allow plenty of time to cultivate and pack the soil. I have yet to see a seed bed too firm. In too many cases the best stand is in the wheel tracks, showing the importance of packing the soil.

Early fall seeding preferably on summer fallow has given by far the best stands. Next best is a late spring seeding in May or June if the seed bed is packed well enough to prevent drying out. February and March seeding run the risk of late frosts and are often quite weedy.

The value of the seeding and the years the crop is left in justifying seeding alone to insure the stand. Cover seed about 1/4 inch. Covering too deep often causes failure. Some commercial nitrogen fertilizer applied at seeding time will help very much in getting a good stand. Where there is a good stand of legumes in a pasture, phosphate and landplaster should be used. Subterranean clover responds very well to phosphate fertilizer. Barnyard manure is a very good fertilizer for pasture. Give the grass a chance to get itself established. It will pay back this start many times in bigger yields and longer life. The leaves make the food that makes the grass grow. Pastures kept grazed short just can't give the yields of those moderately grazed or given a rest period through rotation grazing.

(Mr. Nibler's series of pasture articles will be completed next week.)

SWAMP LAND
(Any one of the following)

Reed's Canary Grass 10
Meadow Foxtail 15
Seedling Bent Grass 5

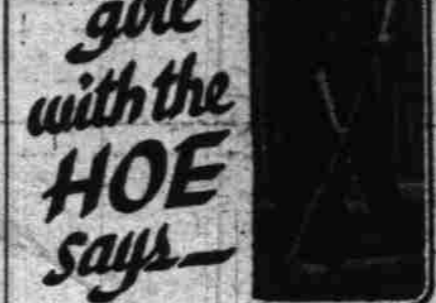
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Daffodils Like Meal
Scattering bonemeal over your daffodil bed, now that the plants are through blooming, will benefit the growth of the bulb. Digging bonemeal into the soil over the daffodils in late fall will also help keep the bulbs well fed and the blooms large.

The girl with the HOE says—



Get your ground ready, weather permitting, for your snap beans. If you have quite a bit of space you might like to plant some sweet corn and squash. Unless you have the space, however, it doesn't pay. Small gardens had best be devoted to vegetables which produce more prolifically.

Plant a few gladiolus. Put some commercial fertilizer along the rows of lettuce, carrots and peas. But water it in.

Divide and transplant your primroses as soon as they finish blooming. If you find they are having trouble with their roots, better set them in new ground. Prune lilacs by cutting bouquets with long stems.

Bait religiously for cutworms, slugs. Don't let one escape when you see it. If you do you will soon have many more.

Mrs. Eva Wilcox Dies in Lebanon

LEBANON—Mrs. Eva Wilcox, wife of Wilfred Wilcox, died Monday at the Lebanon hospital. Burial was Wednesday in the IOOF cemetery after services at two o'clock in the Howe chapel. Mrs. Wilcox was born in Arkansas 38 years ago and came here from New Mexico two years ago. Besides her widower, three little girls survive her, ages 12 and 9 years and 9 months months.

War Changes Use Of Plaster

During normal times, farmers use 70 to 100 pounds of ammonium phosphate per corn acre as fertilizer, or 200 pounds of superphosphate. At the present time, however, because of the fertilizer scarcity, farmers who have planters with fertilizer attachments customarily use about 75 pounds of land plaster per acre.

As soon as the hardy chrysanthemums start growing, the roots may be divided and reset in newly prepared ground.

Fertilizer Has Double Action

The new ammonium nitrate fertilizer gives the gardener both a "right now" and a "later" fertilizer in that it contains 32 to 35 per cent of nitrogen, half of which is in the nitrate form as supplied by sodium nitrate, and the other half in the ammonia form as supplied by ammonium sulphate. The nitrate form is available quickly, while the ammonia stays in the soil for later use.

Agents Say to Dust

Our county agents are advising dusting all corn seed with Semesan Jr., as protection against fungus diseases which attack newly planted seeds and corn seedlings during the periods of cool weather. Six pounds of seed per acre is considered a good planting rate here in the valley and many yields are reduced by raising more than three stalks per hill or planting closer than 18 inches in the row.

All Grow in Valley

Oregon's total gooseberry acreage in 1943 was 550. This was all in the Willamette valley. The 1944 acreage is estimated at about the same.

Ranch Ramblings By Rural Reporter

Edging over into Benton county, we found orchardists worrying for fear the rains had interfered seriously with pollination of cherries. Pastures there, like all the sections we visited, were much improved.

Around Albany, gardeners were observing that rain had delayed land preparation for seeding, fiber flax was up and pastures were looking nice throughout Linn county.

In Polk county, farmers, too, were complaining of unfavorable weather for pollination and of delayed seeding, and over in Yamhill county the "ground is too wet to be worked."

In our home county, Marion, walnuts were budding, frost and pollination were both unfavorable to pollination but pastures were much improved.

Oats and vetch were making good growth in Clackamas county, and corn was beginning to be talked. We rounded up J. J. Inskeep, Clackamas county agent, and made him come across with some corn information. Said Mr. Inskeep in part:

"Although we have ample opportunity for seeding fall and winter crops, I expect that we will seed approximately 11,000 acres of corn again this year, as growers are finding field corn to be a profitable crop in addition to its desirability as a cultivated crop which is desirable in the rotation, as summer cultivation incidental to the culture of corn

helps to clean the field of weeds. Our acreage of corn would probably be larger except for the fact that we are short on corn planters and power cultivators."

We insisted on Mr. Inskeep telling more about this corn business.

Corn yields here, he said, compare favorably with those of the midwest and 50 bushels an acre is no longer considered out of the ordinary. Most of the corn grown in Clackamas county is grown for grain, although silo filling is a very important operation on dairy farms throughout the county. Introduction of improved varieties along with the development of power cultivators, are factors responsible for these increases of acreage and production. Cultivation of 50 acres of corn is a large job for a team of horses, but with the new four-row tractor cultivators, the care of 100 acres is a simple matter.

Mr. Inskeep reported that corn was planted from April 20 to the middle of June, as soil and weather conditions permit. Wisconsin hybrid 355 and the new early Oregon hybrid 100, introduced by the Oregon experiment station last year, are the most popular varieties for both grain and ensilage.

Eureka Dent is a quick maturing, high yielding variety, developed by Dr. A. H. Hume of the South Dakota experiment station, where Mr. Inskeep located it in 1936. It seems quite at home, he reports, in Clackamas county, and

It has revolutionized swine production in that county, for the use of this variety makes the practice of hogging corn in the field a sound farm operation. Planted prior to May 7, it may be expected to be ready for hogging down about August 25. Growers customarily broadcast two pounds of rape to the acre between the corn rows at last cultivation.

Mr. Inskeep told us that to eliminate flea beetle damage to rape, planting of this should be delayed until July 1.

Six pounds of seed corn per acre is considered a good planting rate.

Growing of corn for grain received its emphasis in Clackamas county from field corn variety trials established in cooperation with the late Phil Wiegand of Needy in 1936. Now some of the larger growers raise from 50 to 100 acres of corn annually. Dan Gingerich, Albert Eymann and son, and Otto Lucht, all of whom live west of Molalla, grow between 50 and 100 acres each year.

Goats Are Profitable

Oregon has 104,000 goats, and mohair clipped from these last year averages four pounds a goat, and sold at the rate of 45 cents a pound. In other words Oregon's goats brought a cash income of \$191,000 to Oregon breeders.

The house leek, *Sempervivum*, is one of the plants called hen-and-chickens because of the way the offsets nestle close to the parent plant. It has pink or red flowers. No plant is easier to grow provided the soil is not wet.

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Announcing the new WAVES Recruiting Center located at the Portland General Electric Company, 237 N. Liberty St., Salem, Oregon. Phone: 9211.



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