

Oregon Third In Peppermint Production

Oil Harvested From 4500 Acres in Oregon Last Year Says Report

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Garden and Farm Editor
Commercial peppermint oil production in the United States was not important until 1900. From then until 1925, Michigan and Indiana, but especially Michigan, produced three-fourths of the world's peppermint oil. During the past few years, Oregon has ranked third highest in production.

In 1943, Oregon harvested oil from 4500 acres. Plantings for 1944 harvest, are said to have been increased 18 per cent over the 1943 plantings. Large plantings have been made for a number of years in Columbia county along the Columbia river. Linn and Lane counties have quite some acreages.

Considerable peppermint was grown in Labish section a few years ago. Now, only small plantings are left there, with Willamette valley plantings now centering in a new community along the Santiam.

According to W. G. Nibler, Marion county agent, approximately 800 Marion county acres are now planted to peppermint. We are unable to obtain exact figures from O. E. Mikesell's Linn county office, but indications were that Linn county office, but indications were that Linn county had a similar acreage to that of Marion's. In both counties plantings center on the Santiam bottom land not far from Jefferson. This section, then, produces approximately one third of Oregon's large mint oil crop.

Trip Into Peppermint Section

With this information in hand, we made a trip to the peppermint section known as Dever in Linn county, and Talbot in Marion.

Loose sandy soil and plenty of water, we found, were essentials to good mint production. We also learned that it costs approximately \$25 to plant an acre of mint, and that sufficient roots can be harvested from one acre to plant an acre of mint, and that sufficient roots can be harvested from one acre to plant ten acres. This, we gathered, was a nice little "by-product" of regular mint farming.

Planting is done in late February and through early March. Different methods of planting are used on different farms. Percy Turnidge, on the Linn county side, had an ingenious method figured out by himself. He had remodeled a potato planter in such a manner that he could chop the mint roots right into the ground.

Still in the Dever section, we found H. Snodgrass with 50 acres of splendid looking mint, as well as 18 acres of flax for fiber, and Elbert Chambers with 23 acres of mint on his 251 acre farm. Chambers also has 18 acres of flax. But we have seen quite a bit of flax this season and found ourselves turning with interest to his 15 acres of distill, which like mint, is to be distilled.

Saw Caraway

While we were in this section, we stepped out to have a look at the seven acres of caraway growing on the Ammon Clause 110 acre ranch. We recall that most of our caraway seed, in pre-war days, was imported from Hungary and that some doubt had been expressed about its ability to grow here. But we found the Clause caraway looking very good.

We were surprised at the very large amount of commercial vegetables grown in this section. Spinach is grown both for the canner and for seed. Carrots and beets predominated, and weeding of these is taking a lot of labor. Rain, the farmers said, is needed in spite of much irrigation. Commercial vegetables are still pretty small because of weather conditions.

On our way from Albany to Dever, we found common rye grass seed being harvested with growers quite well satisfied with the seven cents which the government is paying in comparison to the six cents in 1943.

On the Marion side of the river, in the Talbot section, we found almost 600 acres of mint growing in one neighborhood. Among the larger growers are E. B. Henningson, Jake Gilmour, Dave Turnidge, Nelson Gilmour, Delmon Davidson, John Eldon Turnidge and McGill Brothers.

The crop looks pretty good, although in this too, like on the other side of the river, growers complain of "too dry weather." Some flea beetle injury was also being reported. In the Talbot section we found no one who had tried spraying for beetle, although there may have been some growers who have done this. But we recall hearing that Henry Brothers in the Labish section had used cryolite. Spraying should be done as soon as the beetle is in evidence if control is to be successful, W. G. Nibler told us.

Harvest started in some of the fields on August 7. Yields are being reported as "pretty good" with between 30 and 35 pounds of oil to an acre about the average.

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden



Men and machines harvest four acres of mustard seed on the H. W. Norman acreage near Lebanon. Statesman reporters found that there were an additional 21 acres of mustard scattered over the 400 acre farm yet to be harvested (Statesman staff photo)

Ranch Ramblings

By Rural Reporter

The weather should make up its mind: either there should be rain or there should be sun. There has been too much dilly-dallying. This was the opinion of farmers in general this past week.

But if there were to be rain, they said, the rain should be very gentle so as not to flatten the grain. In all sections grain seems to be standing nice and straight, just ready for the reapers. A few places, we found, the reapers had already called—here and there in combine form, and, in a very few places, were straw stacks left by the threshers. We learned that there would be quite a number of straw stacks before the season was over.

In Linn county we found growers still boasting that fibbers and walnuts were "looking good." Marion and Polk county farmers admitted they were only "pretty fair."

We were interested in the corn situation on the H. W. Norman, Lebanon, RFD 3, farm. We never saw such tall corn before—almost Mr. Norman has 72 acres of it, but then he is farming 400 acres. While he is growing some 525 hybrid, he insists he likes better the open pollinated corn. And what is even more important, he added, the stock like it better. They'd leave the hybrid every time for the open pollinated if given a choice. Mr. Norman is expecting to harvest 1000 pounds of seed an acre from his six acres of Chinese cabbage. We wormed out of him too, that he has this contracted at 35 cents a pound. We found him harvesting, with an ordinary combine, seed from four acres of mustard. In all, he told us, he has 25 acres of mustard planted for seed this year. He has been growing mustard for the past three years and reported this was the worst for aphids.

Mustard seed was also being

Legal Opinion on "F" Trucks Given Farm Owners

Legal opinion on the extent to which farmers owning trucks of "F" plate registry are authorized to do hauling for their neighbors includes the following essential facts:

Any "F" plate truck owner, in addition to hauling his own produce and supplies to and from his farm, may "infrequently and for a nominal consideration haul such crops and livestock produced and supplies consumed and used by other farmers in his immediate neighborhood."

The term "infrequently" is defined as meaning any number of trips not exceeding 20 in any one month and not exceeding 40 trips in any one year. The "immediate neighborhood" is subject to a common-sense interpretation and varies widely in different parts of the state.

For a nominal consideration but without limitation as to frequency he may haul to any market the agricultural commodities produced by neighbors and may deliver farm supplies to them, provided such neighbors are within a radius of five miles of the farmer furnishing the hauling services if the operation is west of the Cascade mountains, or within a radius of 10 miles if east of the mountains.

"Nominal consideration" is defined as any charge mutually agreeable. To an increasing extent farmers hauling for other farmers are charging the published rates permitted common carriers. No restrictions as to distance, frequency or consideration apply when "F" plate operators haul farm products from a farm adjoining his own.

Weed Expert in New Job

L. E. Harris, weed control specialist for OSC experiment station, has resigned to accept a position with the Chipman Chemical Co., manufacturers of weed killing chemicals, which is now constructing a plant in Portland. Appointed to succeed him is Virgil Freed, a former assistant to Harris, who was graduated in farm crops and chemistry at Oregon State college.

New Standards for This Year's Filbert Crop Established

Following a hearing held in Salem recently, the state department of agriculture has established new standards and grades for filbert kernels or shelled filberts, these to become effective on August 10. The new order rescinded an order of August 9, 1943.

The new standards established two grades, Oregon No. 1 and Oregon Broken, and provide that all containers must be marked in a conspicuous and legible manner in blue print on the bag or carton, either by grade number or registered trade name filed with the department of agriculture.

Size classifications are stipulated for Oregon No. 1 grade, both for Barcelona and DuChilly types of kernels. These are jumbo size, large size, medium size and small.

The new grades are of primary interest to Oregon filbert shellers and are of no concern to growers except as they sell shelled filberts.

A copy of the complete standards will be available shortly for any interested person who requests it from the State Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, at Salem.

Livestock Demand Not Likely

Heavy post war demand from European countries for livestock from United States farms is unlikely, according to Dr. O. E. Reed, chief, US bureau of dairy industry. Dr. Reed points out that after hostilities cease it will probably be a year or more before these countries can begin importing livestock. Priority will no doubt be given imports of food for direct human consumption. Rehabilitation of herds and flocks will be primarily a matter of encouraging domestic production as soon as feed is available. Countries which want to obtain dairy cattle after the war are interested chiefly in cows for utility purposes and not in registered breeding stock, except possibly for a few outstanding proven sires. Breeding stock demand probably will be limited to breeds already in the country.

Apples, Pears Need Another Spray

It is time to spray apples and pears again for worms, according to Ben A. Newell, assistant county agent, Marion county. Second brood codling moths are active and laying eggs. Eggs will hatch about August 11 or very little later. Spray on or before that date.

Powdered lead arsenate used at the rate of 3 pounds to 100 gallons of water is the recommended spray. Calcium arsenate used at the same rate has been just slightly less effective than the lead compound.

Thoroughness of application is essential. The foliage as well as the fruit should be well covered in order to cut worm injury to a minimum. Special effort should be made to spray the upper portion of the trees as more than one-half of the moth eggs are laid in the top third of the tree.

Gas Coupons New

E2 and R2 non-highway gasoline coupons are now being issued to farmers and other non-highway users and will be valid concurrently with the E1 and R1 coupons now in circulation, OPA has announced.

Commercial Truck Up

Production of commercial truck crops this summer will be about 13 per cent greater than last year and about 9 per cent above the 10-year average.

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Raising Calf Found to Be Important

The cost of raising a calf from birth to first freshening at about 25 months of age ranges between \$70 and \$125, depending largely on the prices of feed and labor. About one-half of this represents feed cost. About 10 per cent of the cost of raising calves represents losses on heifers that die after having expended on them a considerable investment in feed and other cost items. This loss can be reduced by careful feeding and management. The price received on the average for heifers sold is 10 per cent below the cost of raising them. The importance of calf-raising on Oregon dairy farms is indicated by the annual expenditure of about \$6,000,000 in bringing them to maturity.

Too often the purchased cow is a poor producer, short-time milker, slow breeder, or has a chronic udder infection. It is the safest and, over a period of years, the most economical policy for a dairyman to plan on raising the number of heifer calves necessary to maintain or to increase the size of his milking herd. The good dairyman, therefore, should consider the job of raising calves as important and necessary, if he is to make the greatest success of the dairy herd enterprise.

The main consideration in selecting the heifer to raise should be given to the possibilities and probabilities of her inheriting good milk and butterfat producing ability from her parents, according to I. R. Jones of Corvallis. It costs just as much to raise a heifer without inherited genes for high production. The calves selected for raising should be from the best producing and transmitting cows in the herd. The best cow families in the herd can easily be determined by actual records of production for several generations.

The need for raising only heifer calves sired by a good dairy bull should be emphasized. If the bull owned is not an animal backed by good production records, the dairyman should replace him. If neighboring dairymen's sires are used for breeding, know that the production records are good.

On most dairy farms the heifer after about six months of age is a very much neglected animal. It is impossible for the young animal to grow on a scant ration just as it is impossible for dairy cows to produce milk on a poor ration. Poor cows may not respond with an increase in milk flow when they are given a good ration, but young heifers will not fail to grow if they are properly fed.

Vary Feed

Many dairymen assume that grass is a perfectly adequate feed for heifers of from six to 10 months of age. Actually grass contains about 80 per cent water and the digestive organs of the calf are not able to handle sufficient amounts of grass to insure normal growth. Similarly, heifers fed on hay or hay and silage for that period usually cannot consume sufficient amounts to grow at a normal rate.

Generally, roughage, either as pasture, or hay and succulent crops is the least expensive feed and should form the main part of the heifer's ration. In order to get normal growth, however, the roughage should be supplemented with from one to two pounds of grain per animal daily during this period. After the age of 10 to 12 months, calves will consume proportionately greater amounts of roughage, and, if it is abundant and of excellent quality, grain feeding is not necessary.

Honey Harvest in Process Now

Summer is also the harvest period on the bee farm. Bees are now bringing in the honey crop from the major plants. Management and "farm labor" are devoted almost entirely to providing ample room, and taking the honey off as soon as it is ripe. Use care to avoid taking honey from any diseased colonies and thus spreading it to other colonies.

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Pictured here is the Hampshire ram that brought \$1000 at the fourth annual Willamette Valley ram sale held at Albany on Saturday. The ram brought the highest price ever paid for an American bred ram of the same breed on the auction block in this country, according to the auctioneer, Col. Earl O. Walters, Filer, Idaho, left. The buyer is A. W. Bagley of Salem (center) and the breeder, Edward Gath, Turner (right). Statesman staff photo

Small Profit

Large Amounts Made on Eggs by Only Relatively Few Producers

Only a relatively small profit per dozen is made from the production of eggs for the market. And this is made only by a few efficient poultrymen. This does not mean that only poultrymen with huge profits make profits, but it does mean that a great many people who keep chickens for egg production do so at a loss.

Feed represents the largest item of cost in the business of producing eggs. Until experience warrants, the producer will have better success by accepting proved feed combinations and adhering closely to some definite, approved method of feeding, rather than by experimenting with feeds on his own.

Oregon for more than two decades has been producing a surplus of eggs that must compete on a specified quality basis at distant terminal markets with eggs from all producing areas of the country. Careless uses of certain feeds and other faulty management practices are known to have objectionable effects on the interior egg quality. As quality is lowered, price is lowered.

Ration is Varied
Most grain feeds supply carbohydrates and fats in relatively large amounts but do not contain a large supply of either proteins or minerals. Grains alone do not constitute a balanced ration for egg production. To supply the deficiency the grain feeds must be supplemented by a mash composed of mill by-products; ground grains; high protein concentrates such as fish meal, meat meal, milk products, and oil meal; mineral ingredients such as oystershell flour, bone meal, and salt; and vitamin supplements.

One scratch mixture recommended for laying hens includes 1000 pounds of wheat, 300 pounds of corn, 300 pounds of barley and 400 pounds of oats. There are others also recommended.

Oregon State college's laying

Vegetables to Be Planted Now

A number of important vegetables arrive at the peak of their development during the fall months. These crops include various members of the cabbage family such as cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and curly kale, A. G. B. Bouquet tells us. He adds that other crops such as celery, lettuce, spinach, root crops of various kinds, Swiss chard, mustard, late corn and beans also thrive in the cool, crisp, moist days of fall. Many of these crops reach their finest edible quality at that time.

It is important that the gardener realize the value of these late season crops and include them in the gardening program.

Lettuce is an important fall vegetable and can be grown from seed in 75 to 90 days, depending upon the type of lettuce grown and the temperatures prevailing. Fall lettuce should be started in August. Seed should be dropped thinly in rows 24 inches apart and the plants later thinned to stand 12 to 14 inches if head lettuce is grown. Lettuce heads are quite subject to injury when frosty weather occurs.

Spinach is a hardy and quick growing crop and under favorable temperatures can be grown in about 6 to 7 weeks. The seed should be planted in August or the very early part of September. Rows of spinach are usually about 18 to 24 inches apart. No thinning of the plants is required. A side-dressing of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia may be applied alongside the rows during the early fall rains—if these can be had.

Full-grown radishes usually are free from maggots. Radishes can be planted at various intervals up to October 15. There is a large range of varieties varying in color and shape.

Seedlings of turnips can be made either broadcast or in rows. Later plantings usually escape maggot injury. If broadcasting the seed, the land should be clean of weeds. There are three types of varieties that may be grown, white, yellow and purple and white.

If rutabagas are grown, the rows should be far enough apart for cultivation and the plants thinned to about 6 inches apart in the row. Both turnips and rutabagas may be planted from August 15 to the first week in September.

mash formula consists of millrun, 320 pounds; ground wheat, 400; ground yellow corn, 400; ground oats, 200; ground barley, 100; fish meal, 100; meat meal, 200; dry skim milk, 100; alfalfa leaf meal, 100; linseed oil meal, 20; steam bone meal, 10; oyster shell flour, 20 and salt, 20.

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