

Weed Control Problem Under Discussion

Authorities May Take Up Problem Seriously And Compell Control

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Farmers are looking with horror on the inroads made by noxious weeds in fields, but in too many instances all they are doing is looking.

When asked why they do not do something to control the weeds, their reply is, truthfully enough, "because the weeds along the roadsides and highways, the railroad right-of-ways and across the neighbor's fence make it look pretty hopeless to try to control those in our own fields."

"The time to get a noxious weed under control is when that weed first gets started," warns Frank McKennon, chief of division of plant industry, state department of agriculture. "After it becomes widespread, control is pretty difficult."

"But," he added, "good farmers will lick the weeds, and poor farmers will be licked by them." McKennon suggested chemical control in small areas and clean cultivation for larger areas. In controlling Canada thistle, he said, the idea used to be to allow no green to show above the surface of the soil. Now it has been found that control can be had just as effectively when the growth is six or seven days old.

Forming Districts

McKennon pointed out the possibility, provided by state legislation in 1941, of forming weed control districts.

Such districts can be formed in two ways, he said. The county court may declare the entire county a district; or, a group of at least seven farmers, constituting a majority of farm owners in a district, may petition the court for a special district for control of specified noxious weeds. Upon receipt of such a petition the court must declare the district organized.

A weed inspector is then appointed and he will have the right to go on any property within that district. Any person, firm, municipality or reclamation district within the weed control district is required to eradicate or control the weeds and in no case permit specified weeds to go to seed. The state highway commission is also included within the scope of the law.

If the landowner or tenant fails to destroy the weeds as ordered, the weed inspector will have the right to go on the land and destroy the weeds and seeds. Any expense incurred becomes a lien on the land and shall be collected. Under some circumstances farms infested can also be quarantined.

The county courts are authorized to levy a tax to raise necessary funds for financing weed control work by the county along public highways and on county land.

In looking over the huge patches of weeds in Marion county, it might almost be a "believe it or not for Ripley" when it becomes known that all of Marion county is included as a weed control district and that this is now on the statute books.

County in a District

The AAA program provides that payment for the control of Canada thistle and morning glory by summer fallowing or chemical weed control will be allowed only in areas where an organized weed control district has been established. Because of this Marion county was made into such a district. But no inspector has ever been appointed or has any effort been made to enforce the provisions of either eradicating or prevention of seed formation. But here and there farmers are beginning to agitate for its enforcement. Agitation—and it wouldn't need much as the statute is already on the books—may become so strong the enforcement becomes compulsory.

Bethel farmers union local has taken steps for forming a special tansy ragwort control district in its area.

Lane county is a weed control district for the prevention of seed formation of Canada thistle and here inspectors have been appointed to tour the county at certain times of the year to enforce this seed formation law. The Lobster valley area in Benton county formed a tansy ragwort control district and actually eradicated the weed, I am told.

Where weed control districts really operate is in Eastern Oregon where the white top and Russian knapweed, as well as leafy

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden —BY LILLIE L. MADSEN.



While it is still in the experimental state, this circular-saw brush cutter, designed at Oregon State college has been attracting wide attention lately. E. G. Johnson, head of the animal husbandry department, is shown giving it a workout in cutting rose briars, oak grubs and other brush. It is expected that it will prove highly useful to farmers in clearing pastures. The tractor mounted type, as shown in the cut, has a five-foot saw that runs parallel with the surface of the ground where it can be raised or lowered for high or low cutting. It was designed to operate from a power takeoff but that didn't work so well in this country for various reasons, chief of which is that in thick brush or over rough country the speed of the tractor must be slowed down too much for the saw speed. With an extra engine mounted on the tractor to run the saw, that trouble was eliminated. With this it is possible to stop and saw down a tree a foot or more in diameter. Steel-wheeled tractors have to be used with this machine as the stiff little stumps left will puncture rubber tires.

Harvest Jobs Wait for War Plant Workers

Several thousand jobs in the Oregon harvest await recent industrial war workers who have finished their war plant jobs, J. Ralph Beck, state extension service farm labor supervisor, said Wednesday.

With the late summer and early fall farm labor demands at their peak, at least 9000 of these war industry workers, especially men, will be badly needed, Beck added. Increased demands are already being felt for additional workers for hops in the Willamette valley. There are also prunes and walnuts and filberts coming on.

Harvest work for even more will be available if and when the former war industry workers apply for jobs in great enough numbers to replace Mexican workers who have been brought into Oregon to assist with farm work.

"Just as fast as war workers show a desire to take over the jobs now being done by Mexican nationals, these Mexicans will be repatriated and sent back to their homes in Mexico," Beck explained.

Families without trailer houses or other housing facilities can be used in most of these harvest jobs only in limited numbers, except for picking hops, Beck adds. While cabins, wood, light and water are available for families at practically all of the Willamette valley hop yards, on-farm living quarters are extremely limited in the other crop areas.

Linn-Benton Group At Shelby Farm

Members of the Linn-Benton Dairy Herd Improvement association and friends will gather at the N. V. Shelby & Sons farm near Knox Butte, Sunday, August 26. A. R. Foster, Tangent, is president.

The day's activities will include the picnic dinner at 1 p. m., election of officers, talk on production testing by H. W. Ewalt of Oregon State college and the inspection of the Shelby herd of purebred Jerseys.

spurge threatened to get beyond control.

Second Filbert Spray Due Now

Due to the long emergency period of the filbert moth, a second spray or dust is suggested by Ben A. Newell, assistant county agent. Sprays or dusts will be most effective if on or before August 26.

A thorough spray of three pounds of lead arsenate in 100 gallons of water is the recommended spray. Particular attention to the upper part of the tree and under the sides of the leaves is essential, as most larvae feeding takes place in those areas.

Dusting is very satisfactory if done in the early morning. Use 40 pounds of 40 per cent lead arsenate if dust is used. More thorough protection may be obtained if the spray or dust is applied by traveling through the orchard in the opposite direction from the way the first application was put on.

State Freeing Nursery Stock From Diseases

Another step in the program to provide nursery stock free from sap-carried diseases to fruit growers has been taken with the selection and labeling of 144 cherry trees approved for cion and bud wood. The trees have been inspected and kept under observation by plant pathologists at the state college and passed as free from serious virus diseases.

This is part of a cooperative program announced about a year ago and participated in by commercial nurserymen, the state department of agriculture and the state college. First attention is being given to stone fruits, including peaches, apricots, prunes and plums, in addition to cherries.

All peach stock in western Oregon, so far as now known, is free from virus diseases except for peach wart. Peach trees are inspected to see that none showing any of this disease are used for bud wood.

Each tree passed by inspectors under this project is permanently marked with a tree code and registered. This indicates that it is not free of disease but is true to the variety named.

Sheepmen Will Meet at Show On August 27

Bryant park, Albany will be headquarters for sheepmen on Monday, August 27, when 110 head of purebred rams and ewes are offered at public auction. The sale starts at 9:30 a. m. with Romneys, Lincolns and Corriedales being sold during the morning and Shropshire, Suffolks, Southdowns and Hampshires in the afternoon.

Buyers are assured of quality animals as two sitting committees will have passed on the soundness of quality of each individual. Registration papers are furnished for all animals, regardless of the price paid. Col. Earl O. Walter of Filer, Idaho, will be the auctioneer, and will be assisted in the ring by Eddie Ahrens of Turner, and Ray Reynolds of Corvallis.

Polk Prunes Have Malady

Prunes may not qualify this year for sale to canneries and it might be necessary to dry a large proportion, W. C. Leth, county agent, said Wednesday. A prune malady called "excessive transpiration" has hit the Polk county prune orchards. Hot dry weather and insufficient root moisture combine to bring on this disease which causes the juice and sugar of the fruit to ooze out into small nodules of wax on the surface. When cut the cells of the fruit are darkened and damaged, making the fruit unfit for canning.

A heat wave now would greatly increase the percentage of fruit affected. Only cool days will curb the onslaught of the disease.

Leth advises prune and peach growers to give consideration to applying sulphur dust for the control of brown rot. In many peach orchards, Leth said, the growers have already started a control program for brown rot either with wettable or dusting sulphur.

Sulphur dust should be applied during warm weather periods in order to be effective and is cheaper to apply than spray. Only the real fine dusting sulphur should be used.

Leth suggests that the prune growers consider making two applications, one immediately and one in ten days or two weeks. Peach growers should give their crops the same treatment, only starting much earlier and making applications at ten-day to two-week intervals.

Amity Ram Gets Top Price at Pendleton Sale

Prices paid for nearly 300 rams at the 19th annual Oregon ram sale held Friday at Pendleton under the auspices of the Oregon Wool Growers' association were not as high generally as in former years.

Top ram of the sale was Suffolk buck sold by Dave Wadell of Amity to Jim R. Hewitt for \$175. Wadell also sold one other Suffolk buck for over \$100, this one going to H. E. Noah, who bid \$105.

High Hampshire was sold by A. I. Eoff of Salem to Gaylor Madison. High Suffolk Hampshire crossbred was \$92 with Eoff selling a pen of five to Vern Pearson.

Grower Price Of \$55 Basis For Prunes

An average grower price of \$55 per ton for fresh prunes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho will be used in constructing processors' ceiling prices for their 1945 packs of canned, frozen and preserved fresh prunes, USDA and OPA announced Wednesday.

If average price paid by any processor is less than \$55 per ton, his ceiling prices for processed prunes will be based only on actual price paid.

P. Dean Anderson, field representative USDA, said that to participate in USDA guaranty purchase program for canned prunes, announced March 26, canners must pay for each purchase of prunes for canning not less than price announced today. Of canned prunes required to be set aside for government purchase order WFO 22.8, 90 per cent come under guaranty purchase program. Anderson said grower prices are at processors' customary receiving points and are based upon customary procedures and tolerances for defective fruit.

Grange, Union Give Support to Federal Crop Insurance

Support of the federal all-risk crop insurance program for 1946 is urged by Morton Tompkins, master of the Oregon State Grange, and by Ronald Jones, president of the Oregon Farmers union.

In a letter to all subordinate and Pomona grange masters, Tompkins said: "I feel strongly that all grangers should be interested in seeing to it that the crop insurance program succeeds. If the program on wheat is successful, we can look forward to the day when weather, insects, fire, disease and flood are removed from the hazards of farming."

Pointing out that crop insurance is a part of the Farmers Union national agricultural program, Jones, in a letter to the presidents of all locals, declared: "If we ever want crop insurance now is our chance to get behind this program and make it work while we have government support." He also stressed the self-sustaining mutual aspects of the program.

Both granges and union locals were urged by their state leaders to undertake sales agencies for federal crop insurance wherever possible. Such arrangements are being made in a number of counties.

Closing date for applying for insurance on fall sown wheat is September 30.

New Plan of Lifting Bales is Worked Out

Use of field balers creates something of a problem in the pickup of bales from the ground. Paul W. Shepard of the First National bank's farm service, has worked out an economical way of hoisting bales from ground to truck, using the tractive power of the truck for lifting the bale. Circulars describing the method are available at the Salem branch of the bank.

In Salem Markets

Lamb growers need no longer make appointments for delivery of their lambs, said Ted Chambers, president of the Valley Packing plant, Wednesday. Lambs are being taken as received and are being shipped out, chiefly to California. The price remains the same, 11 1/2 cents being paid for top lambs. Because of the two days which the plant was closed to observe V-day, only 180 lambs were received for the week ending Tuesday. A total of 45 ewes and six wethers were also received, and eight yearlings.

In the beef market, the demand remains much greater than the supply, and the heaves killed are sold in the valley. Besides the beef animals bought from local farmers, three carloads were bought by the local company at Enterprise. Bought from farmers were 15 veals, 35 beef cows, 23 dairy cows, four heifers, seven bulls and one steer.

Hogs, to quote Mr. Chambers, "remain the more than scarce article. Either the ceiling will have to be raised or the feed prices lowered if the buying public is to have pork." Only 48 were received at Valley Pack during the week.

Eggs remain scarce in Salem markets too, with all sizes raising one cent to the producer today.

Urge Growers to File Applications For Prune Pickers

Prune growers are being urged to file applications for a definite number of workers at once. The available supply of labor seems considerably short in harvest fields, county agents report. An allotment of prisoners of war has been made to the valley but because of army regulations pertaining to their use, housing and control, it has been possible to locate them only in a few of the large hop yards. They cannot be used in small units and are therefore not available for prune harvest help. The number received, however, will help the all-over labor situation by making that many more workers available for other growers.

County Dairy Business is Worth Million

Dairy manufacturers paid \$1,234,233 to Marion county dairy farmers during 1944, figures just compiled at the state department of agriculture show. Farmers sold 40,566,900 pounds of milk to the manufacturers of dairy products.

Besides this \$1,234,233 was paid to farmers for 4,775,050 pounds of whole milk for fluid use.

Creamery butter manufactured in Marion county the past year was 3,897,569 pounds as compared to 580,786 in Linn county. Linn county farmers sold 35,075,065 pounds of whole milk to manufacturers for \$1,194,156.

A total of 114,645 gallons of ice cream were also made by wholesale and retail manufacturers in Marion county during the year.

Tillamook county made almost one half of all cheese made in the state with the cheese county's total output given at 10,962,364 pounds. Coos county made 7,994,529 pounds with Marion county at 1,116,414 pounds, and giving promise of crawling up closer toward the top in coming years.

Prune Growers Will Meet at C of C, August 29

There will be a joint meeting for Marion and Polk county prune growers at the Salem chamber of commerce rooms at 8 o'clock, Wednesday, August 29. W. E. Kinsey, state labor commissioner, has called the meeting as a hearing to discuss prune harvest labor rates.

Mr. Kinsey held similar meetings two years ago and growers have requested, because of the success of these, to have such a program again this year.

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