

Willamette Valley Farmer

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



Heavily laden trees and good market combine this year to make peach growing a profit. Pictured above are Mr. and Mrs. Jess Mathis, propping up overburdened limbs in the orchard, an important function of the orchardist. Much of the crop on the Mathis farm, out the Portland highway, is sold over the counter of the roadside stand, and Mrs. Mathis says business is certainly good this year. Mr. and Mrs. Mathis started growing peaches about 15 years ago, now have 20 acres. Improved Elberta and other varieties are now being sold. Several early peaches are done. Besides peaches the Mathis have 20 acres of mint, just harvested and some melons and other truck garden produce. (Statesman photo)

Fertilizer In Ample Amount

Phosphate Available To Farmer for Winter If Ordered Very Soon

The first supply of phosphate fertilizer in four years is in prospect for Oregon farmers if they will take advantage of an opportunity to order their supplies immediately and take delivery when the material arrives, reports Art King, extension soils specialist at the state college.

A superphosphate manufacturing plant has recently been completed in eastern Idaho which has agreed to ship an almost unlimited supply to Oregon for delivery between now and January 1. After that date the production from this plant is otherwise contracted.

Dealers and farmers throughout the state will have to cooperate promptly and fully if we are to take advantage of this supply, King says. Dealers will need to order the material immediately, and since storage space is limited, farmers will need to purchase and store their season's supply as soon as it is available.

King adds that the Idaho superphosphate is available at a favorable price. Since this is the only manufacturing plant in the area, farmers who use the material will have a definite price advantage over any other phosphate that might be available even should production restrictions be lifted. Transportation costs and a high selling price would make any imported material more expensive.

It is thoroughly cured, King says, and will not "set up" to a point where it cannot be spread unless subject to outside moisture. Farmers report they have found from sad experience that this was not true of the under-cured material available in the past few seasons.

Peak Reached on Prisoner Help

The peak number of 2058 German prisoners of war was reached this week when 551 were assigned from Camp Adair for a week to help meet a critical situation in the Willamette valley bean fields, and an additional 500 began picking hops in the Salem-Independence area.

The prisoners have been used in Marion, Yamhill, Polk, Jackson and Malheur counties harvesting beans, pears, potatoes, onion seed, lettuce seed, hops and corn as well as cultivating sugar beets and onions.

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baking. In that way the women do not object to returning year after year. Quite a bit of money is made picking berries and the thornless evergreens are particularly nice to pick, Wiesner said. The oldest pickers in the field are Mr. and Mrs. C. E. McMillain, 79, now of Salem. The McMillains formerly lived in the neighborhood but have moved to Salem. They like to return to the prairie for the berry season.

Picking is good.

Mrs. Andrew Smith, who lives up the road a piece from the Wiesner farm, is the "star" adult picker. She is averaging 40 carriers a day and there are six hallocks in a carrier. Donald Dunn, another neighbor who is but eight years old, picked 16 carriers in four hours one day during this week.

Wiesner has farmed a number of neighboring places on the prairie. He has also been employed at Salena at times. But, he says, he is most contented now, back farming the old farm place. Land doesn't wear out, he claims, if it is treated right. But land, like other things, has to have something put back into it if it is to continue to give.

During the war and the accompanying teacher shortage, Mrs. Wiesner has been teaching the neighboring school. But her main interest is in the improvement of the home place. This is one farm which will go to the children in a better condition, so far as fertility of soil is concerned, than it came to the parents.

Dairymen Leave On Observation Trip to South

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Ross of Mt. Angel and Homer Shelby of Albany are leaving late this week for the southern states to look over the outstanding Jerseys of the country. One of their destinations is the W. S. Sparrow and the Wallace McMonnus ranch in Perry, Fla. The group plans to return with some new blood for their already fine blooded Jersey herd.

Notice Hop Pickers

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Ranch Ramblings

By Rural Reporter

If it weren't just for the tires now, the rural reporter could ramble quite a bit with this extra gasoline. Even as it is the reporter gets around quite a bit more than was possible when the little tickets were in demand.

During the past week, the reporter was shocked to see how much grain was unharvested right here in the Willamette valley because of too much Canada thistle. Every few miles, I ran across a patch of grain left standing in the field—more thistle than grain.

The thought that Frank McKenna of the state department of agriculture, recently expressed, kept running through my mind: "The weeds will lick the poor farmer; the good farmer will lick the weeds." I realized that during the war-time period, when food production is the all-important issue, there might not be so much time for weed-killing. But now, when the war is over, maybe some "good" farmers will show up again or have time to become "active." Anyway, not even rapidly grown foods can be produced on some of the fields. Unless some manufacturer can find a use for Canada thistle, or unless the Willamette valley farmer is going to take time out for its

control, farming won't be looking so good here.

Canada thistle isn't the only tough weed to battle here in the valley. Those of you who are interested in the beauty of Queen Anne's lace can find a very well-filled field just a few miles out on the Silverton road. To the farmer, this is just wild carrot and is one of Oregon's worst weed pests.

Arthur Biles is one of Marion county's new land owners. He bought the Mary Mack ranch which he has been farming in the North Santiam district for sometime.

Both in Clackamas and Marion county I found a few experiments of the early maturing varieties of tomatoes, the Chatham, New Hampshire Victor and Bison. While the Chatham looks particularly promising, the whole story cannot be told until the end of the season. Some fear that the early-fruited varieties may damage because of lack of moisture.

However, the Chatham and Bison have set much earlier than the common varieties grown heretofore.

Fattening Lambs Subject of Talk At Ram Sale

Fattening thin lambs and getting in under the subsidy payments was quite the ringside talk at the Willamette valley ram and ewe sale at Albany early this week.

Ben A. Newell, Marion county assistant county agent, who was helping about the ring at the show and sale, said that any sheep grower who had ample and satisfactory feed would find it to his advantage to fatten all his thin lambs.

Growers in Marion county, he added, have found it possible to fatten their healthy lambs on sudan grass pasture plus one pound of grain per head daily. Grains suitable for this are whole wheat or barley, in his opinion. Care

must be taken in pasturing sudan grass after cool weather starts as there is some danger after frosts occur. Healthy feeder lambs can be fattened in the dry lot where alfalfa or good quality clover hay is available.

Experienced growers find that it is advisable to shear lambs to be fattened. In warm weather the lambs will benefit on farm pasture if shade is provided, while for winter feeding a shed shelter is advisable. In either case shearing is best, Newell says.

Lambs that are heavily parasitized will not fatten unless they have been treated. Healthy lambs either on pasture or on dry lot feeding can be expected to gain from one-third to one-half pound a head daily.

Under present conditions, Newell cautioned, it is advisable to attempt feeding only where ample feeds of good quality are available on the farm.

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North Howell Farmer Speaks up On Advantages of Small, Well Cultivated Farms Over Larger

Tells How He Makes Ample Profit On Well Taken Care of Berries; Less Labor Problems During War

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman
"If your farm isn't too big for thorough cultivation and modern care," says A. B. Wiesner, "you make more money with less trouble. At least, I do."

Mr. Wiesner has cultivated both large and small farms. He now farms the place where he was born, in North Howell. There are but 32 acres in the farm and the most of these are planted into berries, which, he adds, have paid well in recent years. This spring he took \$485 from one-fourth of an acre of strawberries. There are 11 acres of boysenberries and four of thornless evergreens. Next year there will be seven acres of the evergreens. They average about five tons to the acre, and with berries the price they have been—well, 15 acres make a nice little income, Wiesner admits.

For seven years, the Wiesners experimented with the thornless evergreen. Their present planting was made four years ago. Three more acres were planted last year and will come into bearing next summer. More will be set out this fall, Mr. Wiesner thought. In a few years now there may be some difficulty of disposing of the fruit, but right now there isn't nearly enough to supply the demand. The government is taking all the Wiesners are producing this season.

With the exception of picking, almost all the labor in the field is done by Wiesner himself. A cover crop of No. 1 common vetch is sown at the rate of 100 pounds an acre. This is ploughed down in early spring when it is 14 inches high. After that, until the picking season, the fields are gone over every two weeks and cultivated.

Wiesner warns against deep cultivation—only four inches, he says. There are too many feeder roots removed if deeper cultivation is used. The cultivation makes a dust mulch. No irrigation is used on the thornless evergreens. They are the most drought-resistant of the cane berries, in Wiesner's opinion.

Fruites heavily. Wiesner leaves from seven to 15 canes on each hill but cuts back the long runners. By prun-



A. B. Wiesner, North Howell farmer, proudly displays his thornless evergreen blackberries. The pride is justified, says the farm editor. She has never tasted sweeter berries or seen larger ones in a field of unirrigated blackberries. The patch now being harvested is four years old. Another three-acre patch will begin producing in 1946.

ing back heavily, more and larger berries are obtained, he says.

A 98 per cent pure dusting sulphur is used just before the plants bloom. Dusting must be very thorough. Cutting after the fruit is removed is not done until the leaves fall. The leaves are a good mulch, Wiesner insists. In some varieties, people fear disease by letting the leaves of the canes fall on the ground. But there has been no trouble that way with the thornless evergreen the Wiesners state.

There has been no difficulty in obtaining pickers. Wiesner claims he has the best in the country. They are neighbors, chiefly women and their children. Picking is arranged so that there is an occasional day for doing the family washing and

Advertisement

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh
Lawn Mowers— Prewar Versus Postwar

Will Curry isn't falling for those pictures of a postwar life of ease. He was sweating over his lawn mower the other day, when somebody shows him pictures of a mower that runs under its own power. "Shucks," says Will, "I like a lawn mower that gives you some backtalk and exercise. It gets the old blood circulating and works up a wonderful thirst. Then," Will adds with zest, "there's nothing in the whole world that tastes as good as a cheerful glass of beer!"

From where I sit, there's a lot of good sense in what Will says. A little honest effort never hurt anybody. And there should be more to our post-war plans than how to make life comfortable and easy. Outdoor work—work you do with your hands and your back—ought to be part of everybody's post-war plans. And on a hot day, as Will says, there's always that sparkling glass of beer as a reward!

Joe Marsh

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