

### Septic Tanks Discussed by Health Officer

There are many ready-made septic tanks which are entirely inadequate now being sold by high pressure sales' talk, said I. G. Lerman, sanitary engineer for the Marion county department of health in an interview this week.

"Years of experience," Lerman said, "have shown public health authorities that the average family dwelling needs a septic tank of about 500 gallons capacity. The inside measurements of such a tank would correspond to a rectangle three feet wide, six feet long and have a liquid depth of four feet.

**Seasonal Care Important**  
"For proper operation of the tank neither the inlet nor the outlet should be placed too near the floor of the tank. For the single family unit the inlet and outlet may consist of a single elbow or T-shaped pipe extending not more than midway from the water line to the bottom of the tank.

"Extreme care should be taken in the final disposal of the effluent coming from the tank. It is rife with bacteria, some of which may be harmful. For ordinary soil conditions, the usual practice is to provide sufficient drain tile so that the effluent may be absorbed in the surrounding area. In any event, this liquid should not be permitted to come to the surface of the ground nor should it be drained into road ditches or streams."

**Health Considered**  
The county health departments can supply anyone with technical information about the construction of a private-sewage disposal system. They are glad to give out this information, says Dr. W. J. Stone, county health officer.

"Home owners who are building new houses are being confronted with sewage disposal problems," Dr. Stone said, "these people would save time and worry as well as money if they consulted our department of health. We want to do all within our power to make Marion county a healthy place — both in-city and country—in which to live."

### Spring Is Here! So Are Weevils And Spittle Bugs

The time of year is rolling around when insect pests and diseases show up in strawberry fields, says Ben A. Newell, assistant county agent. Root weevils are the most damaging, he adds. Two groups of root weevils work on strawberries. One winters over as an adult and comes out in March and early April and the second is a grub now in the soil and comes out as an adult around picking time. Weevils come out over such a long period that special care is needed to get control.

Newell's recommendation for control is that each grower examine his own planting now and if weevils are found around the base of the plant or the injury to the leaves known as "ragging" is present, a bait application should be made at once.

**Prepared Baits**  
Use a commercial prepared bait this year, Newell advises, as materials for home-made baits are hard to get. A tablespoonful of bait placed in the crown or at the side of each crown is most effective.

# Willamette Valley Farmer

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



Shown here is part of the heritage of the farm child—the native wild flowers from one's own bit of woodland.

From Oregon pioneer days on, it has been the privilege of the farm child to gather and bring home to Mother the first blooms from the woods. City children frequently lack this privilege, first because neither they nor their neighbors have "woods," second, because they do not know from past years under which large fir trees the first lady slipper (lower left) blooms; on which bank of the stream the trillium (lower right) comes out the earliest, or on the edge of which oak grove the lambs' tongues (upper) almost sneak up on one, they grow so fast once they get started.

In the garden of many a farm child, grows a little nest of lady slippers which would have failed in another garden, because not enough leaf mold was brought back, or perhaps, slug bait was not put out early enough—and slugs are so fond of lady slippers.

The farm child has learned from experience that if trilliums are picked they do not bloom again the next year and likely not even the year following. So, only one or two are picked from each clump and not infrequently is the bulb from the picked flower brought home to be nursed back in some shaded corner of the home garden. Not for three years will this bloom as a rule, but eventually quite a little clump will show up.

The lambs' tongues — which mid-westerners usually call dog's tooth violet—when transplanted grow remarkably large in the home garden if given very good drainage and a little mulching.

weather continues bad, a second application two weeks after the first may be necessary.

A bulletin "Insect Pests and Diseases of Strawberries in Oregon" is available at all the county agents' offices here in the valley.

Rotenone of various strengths is available this year. Either 3/4 per cent or 1 per cent is best, and 50 to 60 pounds per acre applied with a hooded duster will do the job.

Dust on a good day. If the

## Ranch Ramblings

By Rural Reporter

E. F. Hubbard, Corvallis, has again been appointed as manager of the Willamette valley purebred ram sale. Other members of the sale committee are Eldon Riddle of Independence, Claude Steusloff of Salem and O. E. Mikesell of Albany. The date for the sale has been tentatively set for August 10, with Bryant park, Albany, again the location.

The Linn county fat lamb and wool show at Scio is being renewed this year after a four-year lapse. The date has been set for Saturday, May 25.

E. Kellerhals, sr., has sold his 30-acre ranch near Silverton and has bought a home in Silverton. He says he is going to watch the other fellow farm for a while.

O. E. Mikesell, county agent in Linn, sent the rural reporter notice that ground squirrel control barley is now available at many points in the county. The material, Mikesell says, is prepared by the state college extension service in cooperation with the U. S. fish and wildlife service. Places where it can be had at Albany include the Albany Feed and Seed, Murphy's Seed store, Kelly's Feed and Seed, and M. Sanders & Co. At Lebanon it is obtainable at Lebanon Feed and Seed and the Valley Feed and Seed. Santiam Feed store has it at Sweet Home, and Brownsville Feed and Seed store at Brownsville. Harrisburg lists Smith's Produce; Halsey, O. W. Frum Seed and Grain; Shedd, Thompson's Flouring mill; Tangent, Grange Oil company.

Remember, these places are just for Linn county. Marion, Yamhill, Clackamas and Polk have their own stations.

Deer aren't "little dears" up around Scotts Mills these days. More than one grower reports that he (and she) has set out

scores of backbreaking rows of strawberry plants one day, only to return the next to find that deer had undone all the work. Never, say strawberry planters in this area, have deer been so pestiferous as this year, and never before have growers wanted so badly to set out additional strawberry plants. They were told to put in electric fences but, the growers report, the deer have undoubtedly changed the well known "Don't Fence Me In" to "You Can't Fence Me Out," as they sail gracefully over the tops of any ordinary electric fence designed to keep cattle in or out.

Marcus Vetter, well known commercial sheep shearer and farmer of Elliot Prairie, over the line in Clackamas county, has just returned from a trip to Montana and the Dakotas with seven head of Columbia sheep from the famous Ernest White band of Kalispel, Mont. Marcus reports that Ernest White sold one Columbia ram last fall for \$1500 and that he weighed 305 pounds—a lot of mutton in one package, Marcus said.

The weather man, apparently, doesn't agree with our column on the time for gardening. But eventually spring will get here. In some sections it has arrived—in spite of the weather man. Green onions from home gardens were being eaten in both Salem and Silverton this past week. What I started out to tell, however, was that cutworms and slugs rather like the rainy weather. They get lots of early licks in, because gardeners fail to realize the pests are here even if spring isn't. Bait put out now will kill the slugs and cutworms before any damage is done, and also before a lot of new slugs and cutworms have been hatched. In this day of scarcity, don't try to mix your own baits. Buy the ready made materials at the seed stores.

## Growing Certified Strawberry Plants Not a Simple Job

The increased interest in certified strawberry plant production is very evident this spring. Plants that have been dug from certified fields recently are being sought widely by many buyers.

Growers who wish to certify plants this year in Marion county are being reminded to file an application by May 1. Late applications will not be accepted. Forms and rules are also available at the county agent's office.

Ben Newell, assistant Marion county agent, reminds growers that entering plants for certification is one thing and completing the job is another. At least three inspections are made of fields by representatives of Oregon State college and plants must have less than 5 per cent virus disease at an inspection and less than 1 per cent on the final inspection to make them blue tag plants.

## St. Johnswort Finds No Welcome in Hills

St. Johnswort, alias goatweed, as a weed in highland bent grass for seed and pasture was discussed at a meeting in the Union Hill grange hall during the week.

A committee of the Union Hill grange, with Floyd Fox as chairman, has been working on the advisability of a weed control district for St. Johnswort.

Seed produced in the Union Hill-Sublimity area was originally noted for its freedom from St. Johnswort but in recent years records from the state college seed laboratory and the experience of private seed companies show an increasing number of bent grass seed lots having St. Johnswort seed.

A number of control methods are being considered, with W. G. Nibler, Marion county agent, giving information on the best methods.

## FFA BUYS SPRAYER

Future Farmers of McMinnville, have bought a 200-gallon power sprayer, which operates under 400 pounds pressure. An 18-

foot boom for spraying of weeds was bought separately, together with additional hose and extra gun. The cost of the complete outfit was approximately \$550. Cost of the sprayer will be met by money taken in from custom work in spraying both weeds and fruit trees.

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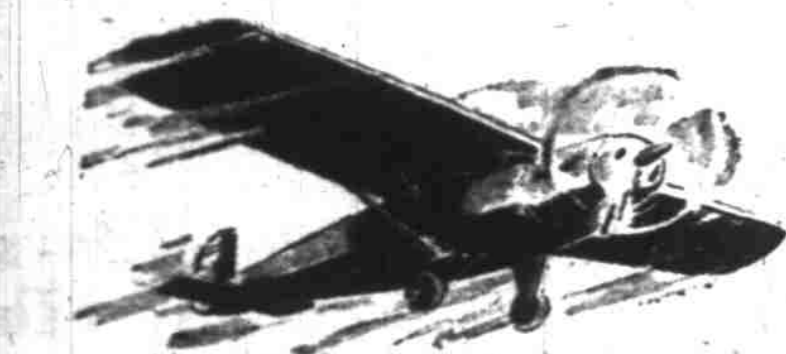
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