

Weed Control Lessens Costs In Production

One of the biggest headaches in strawberry culture is on the way to being licked. Control of weeds in strawberries has always constituted one of the major costs of production. At present high labor costs, weed control by hoeing and cultivation may run up as much as \$75 to \$100 per acre per season.

The licking of the problem will likely come through chemical weed control. In the past two years great interest in the possibility of this has been shown. It has been found that hoeing costs may be reduced from 50 to 75 per cent through the proper use of the appropriate chemical. And these findings are still only in the experimental stage.

Information to date on weed control in strawberry fields is contained in a pamphlet just issued by the state college extension service and prepared by Virginia Fred, Rex Warren and R. Ralph Shepherd.

Leaves Make Berries

Berry production in strawberries is dependent to a great extent on the late summer and fall growth of the plant. Fields are generally produced from late July until late November. Nothing should be allowed to interfere with the maximum production of leaves at this time.

During the dormant season, usually from late November through February in the Willamette valley, the crop can be treated with the chemical without injury to the subsequent crop. It is at this season of the year also that our most troublesome weeds make their growth. These weeds include ryegrass, chickweed, vetch, groundsel, mustard, annual bluegrass. The coincidence of the growth-habit of these so-called winter annuals with the dormancy in strawberry growth is very opportune for application of chemicals for weed control.

Eliminates Some Work

Through the use of chemical weed controls in strawberries, spring work will not be needed as early as where they are not used. The soil will be in better condition for cultivation at a later date and fewer of the feeder roots will be destroyed. Later cultivations need not be deep. It is generally agreed that strawberry production is lowered quite materially by damage done to feeder roots by hoeing and cultivation.

Spray Materials Listed

The materials which have shown the most promise for use as dormant sprays on strawberry fields are various phenolic weed killers such as the dinitro general weed killers combined with oil. The formula suggested for use consists of one and one-half quarts of general weed killer or dinitro plus 30 gallons of diesel oil plus 80 gallons of water, and this mixture applied at the rate of 110 to 120 gallons per acre.

For the pentachlorophenol weed killer, the formulation is somewhat as follows: Pentachlorophenol formulation equivalent to 8 to 10 pounds of phenol, 30 to 40 gallons of diesel oil, and 80 gallons of water. This total mixture is applied to one acre. It should be noted, say the authors of the pamphlet, that the phenol is first mixed with the oil and then may be added to the water, or if they are mixed in the spray tank the water may be added later.

Pressure Needed

The spray rig used for applying these materials to the strawberries should be equipped with an efficient agitator and have from 75 to 150 pounds pressure per square inch. When applying at high volume, as is used in this spray procedure, nozzles delivering from three-fourths to one and one-fourth gallons per minute at 100 pounds pressure will be required for economic spraying.

The use of too much oil or too toxic oil, as the various contact weed-killing oils now available, should be avoided in this spray mixture. Oils have a tendency to creep by means of a wick action in plants. Should the strawberries, even in the dormant stage, be sprayed with too heavy an application of oil, injury to the crown might result. It is important, therefore, to limit the amount of oil used and to use preferably such light oils as diesel and fuel oil for this purpose.

Further experiments are being carried on at OSC and as information develops it will be given out, the college extension heads report.

WEED MEETING SCHEDULED

Elimination of Tansy ragwort and Irish gorse will be discussed at a county-wide meeting of Clackamas farmers called for Wednesday, January 26, 10 a. m. at Central grange hall, Beavercreek.

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



Conserving Oregon's soil is one of the big problems in Oregon's biggest industry. The group of men pictured here are attacking this problem at the first annual meeting of the Santiam soil conservation district recently at Aumsville. Seated, from left to right, are Roy Porter, Aumsville; Fred Comstock, Marion; William Tuetsch, Oregon State college; Henry Ahrens, Turner, chairman of the district and Harry L. Stewart, West Stayton. Standing, left, is Ronald Elms, soil conservation service; right, Harry Riches, Marion county agent. (Farm Photo for Statesman.)



Thousands of farmers (and some of their town cousins) attend the annual "farm family" parties given each year by Willamette valley farm implement and machinery companies. Noon lunches are served, motion pictures are shown. Sometimes new machinery is also on display. This picture was taken at the recent Silverton Farm Implement store party. (Statesman Farm Photo.)

Aurora Hens Make High Lay Average

Producing commercial eggs for market is only one of the enterprises on the J. R. Stratford and Son ranch, Aurora, but it is an important one. In talking with Ben Newell, Marion county agent, this week, Mr. Stratford reported a lay of over 80 per cent from his 800 hen Parmenter Red flock.

The flock, which is made up of a new group of pullets each year, is housed in old hop storage buildings which have been converted into poultry houses. Many features of good management can be observed in this one set up, says Mr. Newell.

First, deep litter is used and requires cleaning only once a year. Built up straw and hydrated lime cover the floor to a depth of about eight inches. Lime, used 1 pound to 3 square feet of floor space, helps dry the moisture and keep the litter loose and fluffy.

Another feature that helps the Stratfords on cleaning eggs is a gypsum trough. The trough is made by putting lath or other stripping around the edge of the step entering the nest. This trough or box is filled with lime which hens must step into before entering the nest. With a lime coating on her feet, the hen has little chance to soil eggs in the nest.

Watering devices are always a source of much wet litter trouble. Stratford has his water troughs built outside the main building on a small slatted porch. This lets excess water drop to the ground rather than being carried back through the house on the birds' feet.

All of these practices go together to be factors in the high lay percentage of the poultry flock, says Newell.

Farm Calendar

- Jan. 25-26 — Annual meeting of Western Oregon Livestock association, Gearhart hotel.
- Jan. 29 — Annual meeting Oregon Jersey Cattle club, Legion hall, Salem. Floyd Bates, Salem, president. Starts at 10 a.m.
- Jan. 29 — Quarterly convention of Marion County Farmers Union, Salem.
- Jan. 31 — Annual meeting Mt. Angel Co-op creamery stockholders meeting, St. Mary's hall, Mt. Angel, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 3-4 — Grange lecturers' school, OSC campus.
- Feb. 5 — Fourth annual Oregon Swine Growers bred gilt sale. Marion County Livestock association sponsors. State fairgrounds.
- Feb. 9 — Linn County Turkey show, Lebanon.
- Feb. 22-24 — State convention of Oregon Farmers Union, Maplewood grange hall, Aurora.
- Feb. 26 — Third annual Junior Jersey sale, Washington county fairgrounds, Hillsboro.

SPECIALTY CROPS TRIPLED

Oregon farm acreage devoted to specialty crops has more than tripled in the 30 years following world war I. In 1919, only a little more than five per cent of the crop land was used for tree fruits and nuts, small fruits, potatoes, truck crops and seed crops. Now 18 per cent of the crop land is used for these.

Cutting Time, Not Weathering, Sets Mint Yield

If a peppermint crop is allowed to mature to the proper stage for cutting, yield of oil is little affected by weathering of the cut material before distilling.

This is being proved by research which has been conducted over several years by the Oregon State college experiment station at the request of the industry.

Even if the crop is allowed to dry to the hay stage, loss in oil is the result of leaf shattering rather than the dry state of the cut mint, the studies showed. If the mint is cut before full bloom stage or allowed to go beyond that point, there is material loss in oil yield, whether weathered or not.

JERSEYS MAKE RECORD

John Lienhart, Monitor, had two Jerseys this past month that proved good production. They were Irene with 80.5 pounds and Nancy with 76 pounds. S-9 a registered Jersey belongs to Marvin Beer of Needy made 82.4 pounds of butterfat.



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Death Causes In Walnut Trees Studied

Consistent use of a wound dressing on large pruning cuts will eliminate one of the two diseases that cause decline and death of walnut trees in the Pacific northwest according to findings of a cooperative federal-state research conducted by Dr. Paul W. Miller and the late C. E. Schuster, federal specialists stationed at Corvallis.

Mushroom root rot and wood rots are the only two "decline" diseases caused by specific organisms, but there are at least six non-parasitic disorders that are responsible for death of walnut trees or serious loss in productivity.

Dressing Formula Told

A good semi-permanent wound dressing for walnuts or other tree wounds is easily made by mixing one pound of commercial bordeaux powder with one quart of raw linseed oil. The authors recommend this for any cuts of one inch or more in diameter.

Mushroom root rot occurs in certain infected soils but only seriously on trees that have Persian (English) walnut root stock. When Hinds black walnut root stock is used this disease causes little trouble.

Prevention Described

Unfortunately, however, the combination of black walnut root stock grafted with Franquette top wood gives rise to occasional walnut girdling, one of the non-parasitic troubles that kills some trees. If a planting is made on soil infected with mushroom root rot it is safer to chance losing a few trees by girdling than to risk the more general root rot disease. For clean soils, Franquettes grafted on Persian roots stock will prevent girdling.

Other disorders caused by poor nutrition or other factors not related to actual disease are boron deficiency, poor soil drainage, cold injury, low soil fertility, lack of moisture and the combination of two or more of these factors.

All of these are discussed in the bulletin, which is available free from county extension offices or direct from the college.

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FAIR BOARD MEMBER NAMED
L. E. Arnold, Lebanon, has been appointed a member of the Linn County fair board and will serve three years. Other members of the fair board are Ned Callaway of Brownsville and R. A. Talbot of Albany. O. E. Mikesell, county extension agent serves as secretary.

Owls range in size from tiny elf owls about the size of a sparrow, to horn and eagle owls which are two feet or more in length.

Inskeep Comments About Fertilizing Strawberry Fields

Only tangible results that have been noted from use of commercial fertilizers for strawberries were from side dressing with 700 pounds of treble phosphate per acre, five inches under the ground, John J. Inskeep, Clackamas county agent, told The Statesman farm editor this week.

These results, Inskeep continued, were noted on the Pete Packard farm at Boring and evidence in this case was conclusive. Fertilizer placement was made in April as a deep side-dressing with a special machine, a year after plants were set in the field. Increased yields came with the second crop.

Many growers side-dress strawberry rows with a complete fertilizer in the fall or in spring, or both, said Inskeep. These are usually surface, or at least shallow applications. Inskeep's observations have caused him to believe that this is a rather futile practice. In the first place, he said, phosphorus-bearing fertilizers are of little value unless placed in bands beneath the root area and at the side of the plant. In the second place, these surface or shallow applications usually increase weed growth and result in higher labor costs for the season.

Mixing phosphates with potash, the soil is one thing, while placing in bands at the side of the row is quite another, with all evidence in favor of the bands. The bands should be placed three inches from the row and three to six inches underground. At the time of setting out plants, 1000 pounds of 20 per cent super phosphate or 450 pounds of treble phosphate should be used per acre. About 100 pounds of muriate of potash might be included, Inskeep said.

Soil Conservation District to Hold Annual Meeting

Persons residing in the 94,850 acre Linn-Lane Soil Conservation district are being urged by Ben Christenson, chairman of the board of supervisors, to attend the district's annual meeting in the Harrisburg city hall on Wednesday, January 26. The starting time is 10 a.m. Charity grange women are serving a ham dinner at noon.

Principal speakers are W. L. Tuetsch, assistant director of extension, Oregon State college; Mrs. Ethelmae Thomas of the food technology department, OSC; and Frank K. Mucus, regional office of soil conservation service. One

supervisor will be elected as Christensen's term expires. Holdovers are Randall Grimes, Noel Pirtle, Reese Jarnagin and John Miller. O. E. Mikesell, Linn county extension agent is secretary.

One tribe of American Indians the Pimas, believed that upon death the human spirit passed into the body of an owl. To assist in the transfer, the Indians gave owl feathers to the dying person.

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