

Some Folk Garden Whole Year Around

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

If a farmer is one who tills the soil, then the Willamette valley has one type of farmer who has not minded the weather we have experienced in the past two months. This is the greenhouse farmer.

A little more sun would have been liked by those who go in for cut flowers and potted plants for winter decorations. But even these say they have not been harmed too greatly. They go right on with their gardening come rain, sun, cloudiness or frost.

Wholesalers Scarce Here
Of the 43 greenhouse operators in Marion county and the 13 in Polk, less than half a dozen grow vegetables for sale. Many of them grow vegetable plants. Most of them grow flowers or plants for sale in their own florist shops. The number which wholesalers plants or vegetables is as scarce as those who grow vegetables.

For a number of years, I had noted a greenhouse on the Aumsville-Sublimity highway on the east end of Aumsville. Aumsville itself, did not look as if it could support a greenhouse of this size. There was no florist shop in connection.

Gardens Year Around
Investigation revealed that A. J. Weisenfels started "greenhousing" here in 1932 and now has two houses, one 30 by 85 and another 20 by 65 feet. While he occasionally sells a little of something to passers-by, he is really a wholesale concern, but he gardens almost the year around.

I found him sowing cucumber seeds in strawberry hallocks. These will furnish fruit very early in May, he said. Peppers were also being planted. Cabbages and lettuce were well underway and would be ready for outdoor planting for early cabbages. Petunia seeds were coming up under burlap covering. In the fall there are chrysanthemums. Through spring and summer there are, first, plants for early summer gardens and later for early fall gardens. Then come the winter crops of vegetables. Almost the entire output is disposed of through Salem stores, he said.

Was Born Into It
You almost have to be born into greenhouse work to like it. Weisenfels remarked. There really is a lot of work to it, he explained. He was "born into it" in Missouri where his parents owned and operated greenhouses. When they first moved west, they settled in eastern Oregon but later came on to the Willamette valley.

For six years before he went into greenhouses, A. J. Weisenfels grew vegetables commercially on his 29 acre place. Now about the only outdoor vegetables grown here are a few for use each spring.

Tomatoes Harvested
Few tomatoes are grown in greenhouses in the Willamette valley. The early crop of these has just been harvested. The seed is sown in late June or early July so that the plants can be set in the greenhouse by mid-August. It is imperative, growers will tell you, that in the case of fall and winter crops, the fruit clusters be set on the plants before the arrival of the short-day period. This crop bears from October 15 to early in February.

In the northwest varieties of tomatoes generally grown under glass are of European origin, such as Potentate and Best-of-All, which produce fruit of medium size compared with the large fruited varieties of American origin, such as Globe and Bonney Best. The English varieties are characterized by having several flowers on the cluster. The fruits are smooth and of uniform red color.

Here in the northwest, vegeta-

Willamette Valley Farmer

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



Officers and directors of the Valley Farmers Cooperative Oil association met Monday following the annual meeting of the organization, to make plans for the coming year. Seated are C. A. Hande, manager and secretary; W. H. Brandt, president. Standing, from left to right are Orren Rice, Hubert Esser, Stanley Swanson and Walter VonFlue, directors. (Statesman Farm Photo.)

Ranch Ramblings

E. A. and Elmer Taylor have added a new acre of Pomona breeding to their White Faces on their Mehama ranch. They are running about 40 head up there now. Hereford do well in that area, the Taylors report.

Mrs. Rosalie Mickey, leader for the Oregon Farmers Union Juniors, at a recent meeting urged her listeners "not to promise the juniors too easy a time." If their work was too easy, they wouldn't enjoy it and if it is easier than they expect, it may be a pleasant surprise to them, was her theory. Besides, she added, the sooner the youngsters learn that anything worth having is worth working for, the happier they'll be.

What the frost didn't get in the line of legumes, the slugs are trying their best to finish. Willamette valley farmers have noted this week. The pest is out in huge numbers "feeding up" after somewhat of a fasting spell. Farmers are giving them something to feed upon in the way of poison bait.

Harry Crater, Newberg, says that farmers are always accused of looking for an easier way to farm, and admits he certainly belongs in that category. Harry planted eight varieties of subterranean clover in a field where filberts are now growing. That was the time when Rex Warren, now at Corvallis, was county agent up in Yamhill. Harry never reseeded the acreage and it is perpetuating itself even though he cultivates it just as he does

ble sellers report that the market for greenhouse tomatoes is for fruits which average about four to 10 pounds of fruit in the spring and summer. The fall crop, ripening through the short, fall days, rarely yields more than three-fifths of the spring total.

But garden culture under glass is increasing in the Willamette valley, it is noted from reports found in the offices of the state department of agriculture, Salem.

the rest of his orchard which is growing the conventional type of cover crop.

Louie Gross, who is now county agent in Yamhill, says that anyone wanting to start a cover crop like Harry Crater's would probably have best results by planting the clover in late May or June and not cultivating any more during the season. It might be necessary to mow weeds to keep them down. Louie also recommends using the variety called Bachus-March because it is early maturing.

Legume Outlook To Be Considered

Polk County Duster Cooperative will hold its annual meeting Thursday, March 10, 1:30 p.m. at the Dallas chamber of commerce, city hall, announces Virgil Heider, president.

Heider also says this meeting will be held in cooperation with the county extension office and all vetch and pea growers in Polk county are invited to attend.

The outlook for the vetch and pea industry of the county will be discussed, and weather damage will be estimated. Members of the association will also elect their 1949 officers.

MINT MEETING TO BE HELD

Peppermint growers will attend a meeting on Oregon State college campus March 15, 10 a.m. in the Memorial Union building, room 105. Subjects to be discussed are the peppermint situation and outlook, harvesting, control of insects, fertilizers, weed control and chemical analysis.

Farm Calendar

March 3—Silage meeting, 1:30 p.m. county court house, Dallas.

March 5-13—National 4-H club week.

March 7—Marion-Polk Guernsey Breeders, Chamber of Commerce, Salem.

March 9—Oregon Dairy Breeders association tour, Corvallis, Marion county breeders.

March 10—Polk County Duster Co-op, city hall, Dallas, 1:30 p.m.

March 15—Marion County Poultry meeting, Salem chamber of commerce, 7:30.

March 15—Peppermint growers meeting, 10 a.m. Memorial Union building, Corvallis.

March 16—Marion county dairy herd improvement tour.

March 16—Bulb growers meet, Gresham, Masonic hall, 10 a.m.

March 19—Guernsey heifer sale, 4-H and FFA, state fairgrounds.

March 31-April 2—Oregon Association of Future Farmers of America, Tillamook.

April 4—Second annual Oregon Holstein sale, Pacific International, Portland, 11 a.m.

June 28-July 1—Fourth annual leadership institute for Town and Country churches, state college, William Teutsch, general chairman.

Valley Basin Irrigation Meet Planned

Irrigation phases of the Willamette valley project will be discussed by Lee McAllister, Salem, bureau of reclamation planning engineer, during the Willamette basin irrigation conference scheduled for the Oregon State college campus Wednesday, March 16.

Program details, including names of other speakers, are announced by W. L. Teutsch, assistant director, extension service. Gov. Douglas McKay will be principal speaker at the evening banquet which will close the one-day meeting, Teutsch adds.

The conference is sponsored jointly by the Willamette basin committee headed by R. E. Jones, Brooks, and Oregon State college. All sessions of the conference will be open to the public. Purpose of the meeting is to make known progress and the status of the project which entails flood control and irrigation development in nine Willamette valley counties.

Irrigation of vegetable crops for processing, from the standpoint of the processor, will be discussed by Carl Robertson, Eugene, fieldman for the Eugene Fruit Growers co-operative.

The college agricultural engineering department is arranging for an irrigation display as an additional feature. Equipment will be shown in the ROTC armory.

As the conference gets underway at 10 o'clock in the morning, President A. L. Strand is scheduled to welcome those in attendance. During the morning session Frederic P. Fish, Corvallis, aquatic biologist, U. S. fish and wildlife service, will discuss the project in relation to fish life.

Other speakers will include college extension specialists in dairying, Louis H. P. Ewalt and Arthur S. King. Ewalt will discuss irrigated pastures, while King will discuss fertilizer and irrigation in the area included in the project.

Poultry Meeting Set for March 15
Marion county poultrymen will meet at 7:30 p.m. March 15 in the Salem Chamber of Commerce rooms to hear a discussion of production and disease problems.

Ben A. Newell, county extension agent (livestock) announced that N. L. Bennion, extension poultryman, and Dr. E. M. Dickinson, poultry veterinarian, both from Oregon State college, will be on the program. A round table discussion on poultry house ventilation to keep litter dry will also be of interest to many operators.

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Pig Litters Need Special Attention Says Ben Newell

Farrowing spring litters of pigs on farms this year is a job worth some special attention, says Ben A. Newell, county agent. Surveys show that 40 per cent of the pigs farrowed never reach weaning age. Two-thirds of these losses are due to faulty management, sanitation, and nutrition, coupled with cold wet weather in March and April.

Good sanitation practices prevent worm infestation. This can be done to a great extent by cleaning the sow up, disinfecting the farrowing pens, and using good clean pasture. One acre of good hog pasture will produce about 350 pounds of pork per acre each year.

The sow will get along best if not fed for 24 hours after farrowing. Begin then with a thin slop of half bran and half shorts. Newell cautions. After the first day, increase her feed gradually until she is on full feed when the pigs are two weeks old.

Electric brooders save many pigs in cool weather. Regular light bulbs or flood lights provide enough heat to keep small pigs from chilling.

CATTLE LIKE MIXTURE
Livestock men at Iowa State college have found that most cattle like grass silage better when it is fed with hay or other dry roughage. It pays to feed more grain but less protein with legume silage because legume silage furnishes more protein and less energy than corn silage.

Deadline Near For Windbreak Tree Orders

Less than two weeks remain for Oregon farmers to get their tree orders in to the state board of forestry, Salem. March 15 has been set by the state forester as the tree order deadline.

Trees available this year include Douglas fir and Port Orford cedar for planting western Oregon; Ponderosa pine, Scotch pine, Chinese arborvitae, black locust, green ash, and Russian mulberry for eastern Oregon.

Height of trees available, according to the state forester, will range from 4 to 12 inches in the case of conifers or evergreens. The hardwoods range from 6 to 18 inches in height. The seedlings are offered by the state board of forestry at \$5 per thousand.

Minimum orders acceptable are 25 trees of a variety for 50 cents. The local county agricultural extension offices have tree cata-

logues and will offer assistance in ordering. Detailed information may also be obtained by writing the state board of forestry, Salem. All prices are f.o.b. Corvallis. Freight charges are payable by persons ordering trees.

DAIRY SALE SUCCESSFUL
A very successful dairy cattle sale was held recently at the J. O. and Edna Gritten ranch on Wallace road. Top price for cows was \$355. Most of the 60 cattle sold were grades but very fine producers.

Federal and State Taxes

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