

Beans Provide Fine Crop in Many Areas Despite Dry Season; Pickers Doing Well

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

To some people this may have been a pretty hot, dry summer. To the bean growers down Aumsville, West Stayton and Marion way, where water has been plentiful for irrigation, this has been "just about right".

That, at least, was what I was told in the half dozen or more bean yards I stopped to visit in that area this week. In some, bean-picking was being completed. In most, picking had passed the peak of the season.

Season Fast Peak
Ernest Dozier at the Stayton Canning company office, reported that the bean season had definitely passed its peak. Picking will wind up altogether in the next couple of weeks, he said. Then corn would start. Processing prunes—which also takes picking time—will begin right after Labor day, in the Stayton plant, Mr. Dozier said.

A total of 7,000 tons of beans will be packed at Stayton. The corn crop looks very promising and while the prune crop is good, so far as number goes, the prunes are small and there doesn't seem to be much prospect of them plumping out this year, the canners state. Stayton hopes to get upwards of 1,000 ton.

"Exceptionally Good"
E. L. Kolstad, manager of the Kolstad cannery at Silverton, said the bean crop was "exceptionally good" this year. This, he said, referred to both quantity and quality. He expected to pack about 150,000 cases. The peak of the season here was this week with 300 employed in the cannery but picking, he expected, would continue right up to the freeze.

Reports from Salem and other valley canneries processing beans were running about the same. The crop is good both in quality and quantity.

"This has been a grand year for bean picking, Jean Darley, (Mrs. Herman Darley of Darley's Plantation) near Aumsville, said Wednesday as picking was being completed on their 65 acres. It was, she said, the first year she could remember going through a whole bean picking season without rain.

Yield Is Good
More beans had been taken from the 65 acres this year on the Darley plantation than last year from 90 acres.

Mr. Darley has been trying a heavy fertilizer program this year, he said. In all, including the lime, he had put 1,800 pounds of fertilizer to the acre on his bean fields. This takes more water, too, he added, but he believes it was paying off. A bit over 500 tons of beans had been harvested from the 65 acres.

Picking will last to the middle of next week probably, the Lawrence Clarks thought, on their excellent-looking bean acreages—30 acres in all.

The Clarks, who live near Marion, have bean-farmed for 10 years and also grow mint on their 120 acres. Eighty bean pickers were busy there Tuesday when we called, and the crop, the Clarks thought, would average about 10 tons to the acre. They were fertilizing at the rate of about 1,100 pounds (also including landplaster) to the acre.

We stopped at other yards, where we found the plants yellowing and the season looking as if it might be ending a bit too prematurely.

Needed Water Early
The answer, growers said, was that they had not watered heavily enough in the beginning of the dry season. It is difficult to get enough water on the ground, a few said, during such a dry season.

Mr. Clark said he aimed to get over the entire fields with water at least once a week. During the extremely hot weather, he shortened his week and brought the water on again sooner. Each set of the water sprinklers is three



Bright red paint applied by Mrs. Lawrence Clark, helps brighten this attractive farm home near Marion. While beans didn't exactly build the entire house, Mrs. Clark states, they did help remodel it. In the other photo are three young folk who have been racing for top place as pickers in the Clark bean yards. From left to right, are Joy Gardner of Phoenix, Ariz., who picked 767 pounds in her top day; Glen Lundy, Sherwood, with 817 pounds as his top, and Lea Wilkenson of Marion, who gathered in 608 pounds for her high. They get three cents a pound for picking, so "our wages aren't too bad," they say. (Statesman Farm photo.)

hours long, so that the ground is soaked "way to the tips of the roots", he explained.

The pickers we interviewed seemed quite happy with the picking situation this year. Very few complained even of the heat. It was better, most of them said, than trying to pick in rain. Growers, as a whole, said it was "an easy year" so far as picking troubles went. Only in a few yards were there any complaints of picker shortage. A few of the smaller growers claimed that help shortage was spoiling their crop.

Daily Pick Large
Good pickers were averaging from 350 to 400 pounds a day. Early teenagers were picking as much as 300 pounds a day on the average. Quite a few were going over the 600 pound mark daily.

Peggy VanVoelkenburg of Portland, who has picked since she was 10 years old—and she is now 14—in the Clark fields, was hitting around 400 and better daily. She liked to pick, she said. She was born in Kansas, but had lived in practically all the western states. The family liked to travel. The Willamette valley had been a fine place, however, as lots of opportunity was afforded to both youngsters and adults to make extra money. But now, she added, they thought it was time to move on. She didn't know just where she'd be attending high school this

winter—probably in either Arizona or southern California—"sort of depends upon where Dad and Mother find the best picking conditions," she sagely explained.

More Local Folk Pick
While there were a number of transient pickers in the yards we stopped at, there seemed to be less so than in many other years.

"We have a lot more valley folk picking this year than last," Mrs. Clark said.

The virus disease which caused hundreds of thousands of dollars damage to the Lane county bean crop this year, and considerable to Marion county, has scarcely been

present in the West Stayton area this year.

A pair of Oregon State college experts are attempting to trace the cause of the virus disease. It appears to affect only a new variety of bean known as FM65S. Last year this variety was badly hit in the Aumsville-West Stayton area. This year, the same variety is grown with high production and no sign of the virus.

Frank P. McWhorter and William A. Frazier, the two college men, said they believe the disease may be common bean mosaic, being spread from one plant to another by aphids. So far they have no explanation for the appearance of the disease here last year and not this year, and at Eugene this year while it wasn't troublesome there last year.

Strawberry Plants Need Irrigation Now

Where irrigation is possible, strawberry fields will respond to an application of water now, in order that normal bud development for next year's crop may take place, Willamette valley county agents are advising.

Without adequate moisture, now, bud development takes place at a slower rate, increasing in rapidity as fall rains moisten the ground. However, with moisture supplied now, larger bud set may be obtained. This also holds true of rhododendrons, azaleas and lilacs.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

Farm Calendar

- August 22—Second day of Marion County 4-H fall show, state fairgrounds.
- August 23-25—Polk county fair, Monmouth, Albany, 8 p.m.
- August 23-24 — Annual Nut Growers Society of Oregon and Washington tour, 9 a.m. L. R. Maloney ranch, McMinnville.
- August 23-September 3 — Pacific National Exhibition, Vancouver, B. C.
- August 24—4-H fat stock auction, 5 p.m. state fairgrounds.
- August 27-29—Linn county fall fair, Albany.
- August 29—Linn county 4-H fat stock sale, Albany, 8 p.m.
- August 27-September 2—Farmers Union Camp at Smith Creek.
- August 29-September 1—Washington county fair, Hillsboro.
- August 29-September 1—Clackamas county fair.
- August 30-September 9—California state fair, Sacramento, Calif.
- September 1-8 — Oregon State fair, Salem.
- September 6—Holstein Calf Selection day, 11 a.m. state fairgrounds.
- September 10 — 11th annual Southern Oregon ram sale, Lakeview, 10 a.m.
- September 14—Oregon Turkey Improvement association annual meeting, OSC.
- September 15—Your Opportunity Jersey sale, Pacific International Exposition grounds, North Portland.
- September 15-23 — Western Washington fair, Puyallup.
- September 16 — Clackamas County Jersey Cattle club, Charles Couche home, Sherwood.
- September 24—2nd annual Marion County Dairy Breeders association, heifer sale. Consignments from Washington, Yamhill, Linn, Benton and Clackamas counties.
- September 24 — Farm Labor meeting, Labor Temple.
- October 30-31—National Convocation of Churches in town and country, First Baptist church, Portland.
- November 12-14 — Agriculture Cooperative Council of Oregon, 30th annual meeting, Multnomah hotel, Portland.
- November 15-16—Oregon Reclamation Congress, Bend.
- November 29-30—Oregon State Horticulture Society, annual meeting, OSC.
- December 1 — Oregon Jersey Cattle club annual meeting, Salem.

Keizer Filbert Drier Will Be Eyed on Tour

A new filbert drier will be inspected during a stop scheduled on the annual summer orchard tour sponsored by the Nut Growers Society of Oregon and Washington on Thursday and Friday of this week.

The new installation is located on the Arthur Oldenburg filbert orchard in the Keizer district north of Salem.

Tour assembly point at 9 a.m., Thursday, is the Lee R. Maloney walnut orchard on the northwest outskirts of McMinnville. Filbert and walnut orchards will be visited each day. Besides the Maloney orchard, the Beaver Island walnut acreage will be visited in Yamhill county. Here, on overflow land, walnut trees are managed in lawn grass sod, and the grass is clipped periodically with a tractor-drawn, heavy-duty mower.

Effects of heavy pruning on walnut trees after severe frost damage will be shown Thursday afternoon when the tour stops at the Charles McNary walnut orchard, also north of Salem. A comparison between pruned and unpruned trees will be shown by Mike Crowther, farm manager.

The second day the group will assemble at 9 a.m. at the R. E. Kerr orchard at 2020 River road between Junction City and Eugene. One of the outstanding walnut orchards to be visited that day is that owned by Homer Chase, Eugene.

Fertilizer Trials For Strawberries Are Underway

Heavy applications of phosphate fertilizer placed in a band at time of planting strawberries have given experiment station Karl Bauer, on best results at western Washington soil scientist and recent visitor to the Willamette valley, states.

Applications of 300 pounds of actual phosphoric acid placed in bands four to five inches deep and about seven to eight inches apart are being used consistently by strawberry growers in the Puyallup, Bauer says.

In addition to heavy phosphating, annual applications of 100 pounds of ammonium nitrate and potash bearing fertilizers are used for the first year or two.

donated by Ben and Phalen Nelson of Medford.

Ranch Ramblings

It is quite natural, in a country of progressive farmers, to have frequent inquiries relative to new plants which might be useful here. Certain new plants might be good, some not adaptable, and others might become weeds.

Take, for instance, Serecia. There has been some inquiry about this. Serecia is the perennial strain of lespedeza. It is used very successfully in cotton belt states as a hay and pasture crop. It resembles alfalfa to some extent but grows on land unadapted to alfalfa.

Many plants useful in the cotton belt are also useful here, but Serecia is not one of these. It will grow here, but the yield is rather low, and the plant grows woody and is not well liked by livestock in the area.

John J. Inskeep, county agent in Clackamas county, is an experimenter if there ever was one. John got himself interested in bent grass seed. Oregon, he says, grows practically all the bent grass used in the United States and Oregon's annual production is decreasing. And this decrease comes right along with the increasing demand, John says. He adds that there are numerous old bent grass fields around George, Springwater, Highland and along the South End road, south of Oregon City. He suggests top dressing some of these fields with about 300 pounds of ammonium nitrate early in October and harrowing for seed next year just to see what goes on. And, he believes, it might go on rather nicely, at that, so far as profit to the owner of the field is concerned.

While we were rambling about in Clackamas county, we heard a lot about L. B. Merrill's Willamette raspberry berry field. He took seven tons of Willamettes from three acres on his Carus farm this year, and with normal rainfall he thinks he would have had from 15 to 18 tons.

This makes us shudder—but ragweed has been spreading rapidly in recent years. Inspections here and there reveal constant new outcroppings of the hayfever weed. Unless you have lived in ragweed hayfever sections or know intimately someone who has, you have no conception of the severity of the symptoms. The Ranch Rambler has a friend in Texas who knows she is going to start sneezing come a certain day in late August or early September—I don't recall the exact day, but she does. Life for her was miserable for about six weeks. She took to spending the six weeks here in the Willamette valley. And then, when here last year, she learned that we had the hayfever weed coming in. This year she has air conditioned her home and will remain there.

It just might be that the 85 women who attended the picnic a few days ago at Alderman farms, Dayton, to welcome Bageda Rasheed of Cairo, Egypt, learned almost as much as Bageda whose sole purpose there was to learn. But Bageda was keenly interested in the home extension group which planned the meeting. Of her country, Bageda said that her people need a greater knowledge of good nutrition. Each year such dietary diseases as pellagra take their toll on the population there.

"We have much need for such educational programs as home extension work," she said.

She said also the country here was beautiful and regretted that the Egyptians, too, couldn't do as much to beautify their homeland, but "we need the water and land space for money producing products," she added.

Bageda is traveling through Canada and the United States under the department of labor. Food program may be common bean mosaic, because of Egypt's need for modern food handling methods.

Loch Lomond is Scotland's largest lake.

ers, who spent the hayfever season in Oregon.

Allergists know just when severe symptoms are about to appear from tests showing pollen content in the air. Nor are cities exempt. Thousands upon thousands of eastern dwellers migrate to Canada, north of the pollen belt or to the Atlantic coast during the hay fever seasons.

So far, we haven't had enough pollen concentration here to cause very much hay fever. When the time comes it will be too late to rid the country of the pest, and coastal resort owners may expect to multiply their business.

For 10 years, John Inskeep, who comes from a hayfever area in West Virginia, has been talking about finding ragweed here in the Willamette valley. But folk here were indifferent. They are still indifferent, although quite large areas of the weed have been found this year. It will be difficult to effect a control program until ragweed hay fever becomes prevalent. Then it will be too late . . . Too bad!

Handling silage for cows can involve considerable work, but Roy Zimmer, a Canby dairyman, is planning to eliminate a good part of it. A silage conveyor used in Roy's feeding bunk is expected to lighten the work. A new silage bunk connecting the two silos already has been completed by Roy. Equipment is on hand for completing the conveyor system that will move the silage from the silos. All you have to do with this improvement is to throw the grass and legumes out of the silos, Roy says.

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