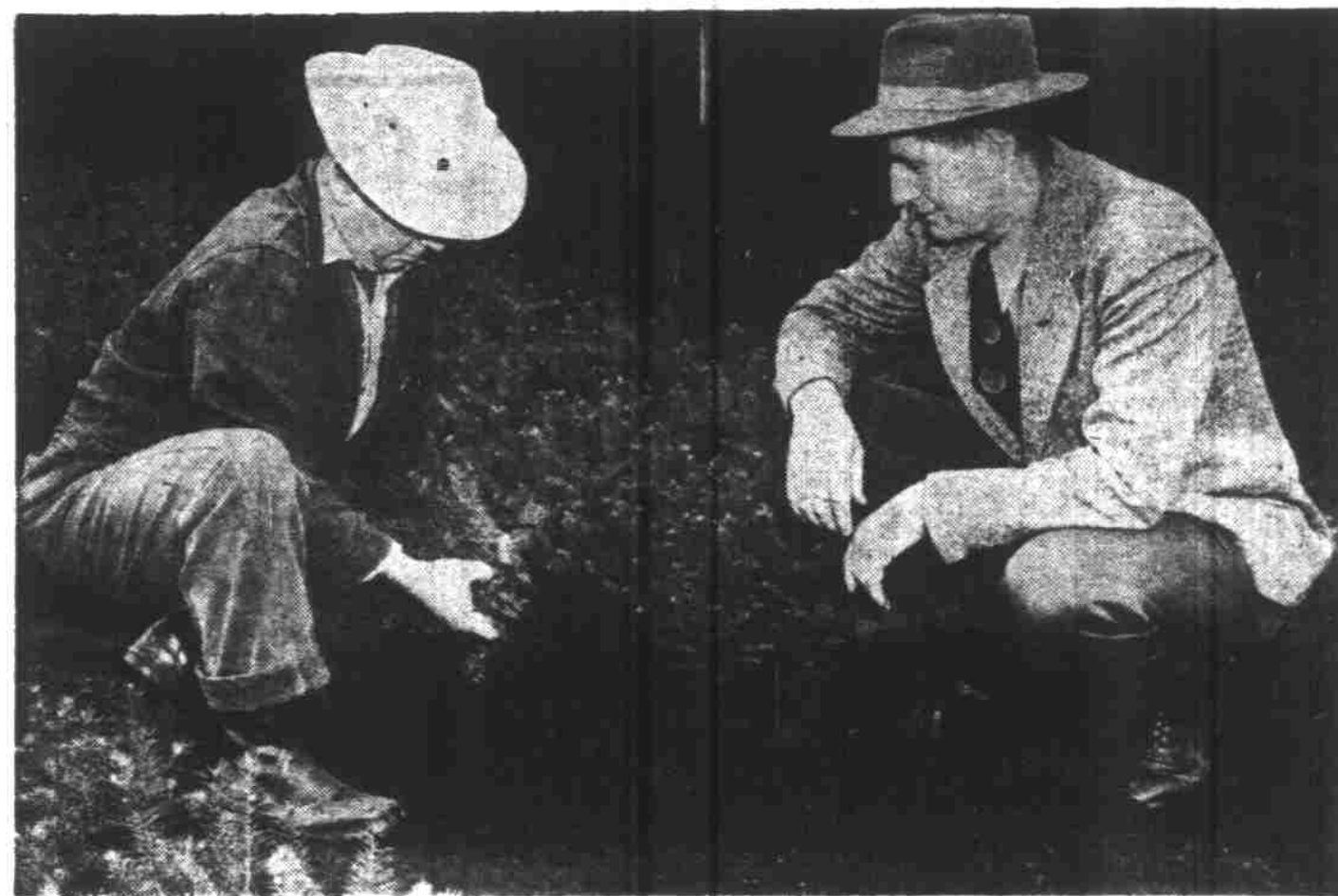


WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

'Oregon Will Always Have Trees'



Verne P. McDaniels (left), superintendent of the Oregon Forest Nursery at Corvallis, and James Phillips, Silverton, inspect a group of small trees ready to go out for farm forest planting. (Farm Photos for The Statesman.)

March 15 Seedling Deadline

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

CORVALLIS—Oregon will always have trees believes Charles R. Ross, extension farm forestry specialist, Oregon State College, as another deadline for seedling tree orders draws near at the Oregon Forest Nursery. After March 15, no more orders will be accepted this year for planting. Already a number of varieties are out of stock at the nursery.

There is considerable to substantiate Mr. Ross's belief. This past year, 3,000,000 trees have gone out from the nursery forest to replant on Oregon lands. There will be 5,000,000 two-year-old trees ready to go out when planting season begins again next fall—usually about December 1. And 8,000,000 small trees will be set out next fall for farm forestry projects two years hence.

Trees Go to Farms
Of the trees which have gone out from the nursery this past year, three fourths of a million have gone to farm forests, and two and a half million to state reforestation, chiefly to the Tillamook burn. Of the three fourths of a million, 185,000 were Port Orford Cedar; 179,000 were Douglas fir and 111,000 were Ponderosa Pine. There were 100,000 true fir which include Noble, Silver Fir and Shastah Fir for Christmas trees. These are as yet only an experiment here. They are really high altitude trees, Mr. Ross reports, and the forestry department is in hopes they will prove out for valley growth.

Included, too, in the farm forestry lot were 32,000 black locusts for posts and windbreaks; 17,000 Caragana for windbreaks; 14,000 Russian Olives, and 12,000 cascaras besides small lots of various other types. In all 146 acres have been planted this past year to farm forestry projects.

Forest Nursery Has Seedlings
The Oregon Forest Nursery is situated on Highway 99-W, six miles north of Corvallis, and is maintained by the state forestry department for the purpose of producing many different varieties of forest tree seedlings for reforestation and afforestation. It includes woodland plantings on the farm, rehabilitation of state forest land and to meet the needs of private timberland owners in so far as nursery capacity will permit.

The distribution of trees for farm planting comes under specific nursery regulations which are incorporated in a special co-operative agreement between the forestry department and the federal government.

The trees cannot be used for planting within the limits of any incorporated city. Neither can they be used for ornamental purposes in urban or suburban areas. Therefore orders will not be filled unless accompanied by a signed statement indicating the location of the plantation. Also, the farmer must own or rent in excess of three acres of land in a single unit.

Price of trees to farmers will vary from year to year. This past year, the price has been \$7.50 a thousand, including shipping charges.

Forest Products Many
The 214 farm forestry projects in the state are proving profitable. This past year there were 2,000 acres of timber cut on farms. There were 17 million feet of forest products harvested under the improved cutting plan; 3,000 poles and piling, and 2,800 cords of pulp wood. There were 7,000 fence posts, and sales from form forests, including Christmas trees, barks, huckleberry greenery, drugs and ferns, mounted to \$9,000.

Seeds for the nursery are bought from regular seed firms. This past year the state forestry department paid \$7 for a pound of Douglas fir which contained approximately 34,600 seeds. Port Orford Cedar seeds, numbering 234,000 to a pound, brought \$5. Cascaras seed has been purchased at from \$3 to

\$4 a pound. One year the state forestry department bought 14,000 pounds of Douglas fir seed.

Gather Seeds in August

Seed gathering starts in August. As soon as the seed is received by the state department it is placed in a seed storage room where it is kept until ready for stratification. This later process starts six weeks before seed sowing is to be done. The seed is placed in damp pure sand and kept in what is known as the "cold room" at about 35 degrees. Just before planting time, all sand is washed off the seed, which is then placed in a grain drill and seeded into the ground in rows four inches apart and in beds four feet wide. The seeds germinate in from three to four days.

If seeds are planted just as they are harvested, it takes a month for them to germinate and the loss is much greater.

People ordering trees are started at the smallness of those they receive, but the very smallness prevents great shock and the trees make much more rapid growth within the next few years than if larger trees are shipped. Too, the small trees are planted much more rapidly.

Trees are packed in wet moss or shingle tow and tied in bundles of approximately 50 each for farm orders. If the foresters warn, the trees cannot be planted immediately they should be removed from the bundle and healed in in some shade spot that is protected from the winds. If the soil is kept damp at all times, trees can be left in this manner for quite a period of time, but they must be planted before the spring growth starts.

Rustlers Get Bolde During Blizzard

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (P)—Rustlers apparently get bolde as the weather gets colder.

Working during a night blizzard, brazen rustlers converted a 700-pound calf into beef right in a nearby dairy barn. The thieves left with two hind quarters, leav-

Don't Neglect Backyard Tree Agent Advises

Too many home gardeners in the Willamette Valley make no provision for insect and disease control in new plantings of berries, tree fruits, and nuts, D. L. Rasmussen recently told his fellow members in the Men's Garden Club of Salem. Since pests like the backyard sprayer as well as commercial plantings, a reminder about pest control programs is in order, he added.

To date there is no spray or dust that will control all insects and diseases in all fruit and nut trees. Each type of fruit or nut requires a separate spray or dust program, although certain insects or diseases may attack two or more kinds of fruit. For example, codling moths cause wormy apples and pears. Brown rot blossom blight attacks cherries, cherries and plums. Wormy filberts are caused by filbert moths.

Backyard Gardener Cares

From observations in Marion County since 1946, Rasmussen says he is convinced the average backyard gardener would be better off doing a good job on a limited number of fruit or nut trees than a poor job on one of every kind. Some disillusioned gardeners may have thought, he said, that he wasn't trying to help them when he cautioned them against planting a little of everything.

Specifically, he continued, do not plant apricots in this area. Spring frosts and diseases ruin the crop about four years out of five. Do not plant peaches unless you plan to follow a thorough spray or dust program. Commercial growers in this area dust or spray each peach tree at least six times a year. If they don't carry on a pest control program, their trees soon look like living skeletons.

Spray Program Compulsory
Before cherries—either sweet or sour—are planted, the gardener should remember that the cherry fruit flies will soon reach the trees and cause wormy fruit. This pest is so serious that compulsory spraying or dusting is in effect in Marion County.

Before planting prunes or plums remember that while these do not require as thorough a pest control program as do peaches, you can't neglect them or the pests will decrease your crop. Thrips can not only decrease the prune crop, they can decrease the prune trees, as well.

Even with one apple or one pear tree, perfect fruit cannot be had unless a spray or dust program is carried out. Apples and pears are more successful for backyard planting than are the stone fruits, according to Rasmussen. Suggested varieties include Bartlett's and the following apples: Jonathan, Gravenstein, Golden Delicious, Starking Delicious and Red Rome Beauty.

With the possible exception of currants and gooseberries (which have a wormy fruit problem) there is a place for trailing berries, bush berries and strawberries in the home garden. Each berry has its pest control program. However, the relatively small size of the individual plant lends itself to a pest control program without expensive equipment.

Seed Imports Heavy in Past Seven Months

Shorter supplies of some seed crops resulted in higher retail prices this past month than a year ago at the same time, the USDA reported Wednesday. Prices received by farmers nationally and in Oregon, for alfalfa and alsike clover seed were above the national parity value this past month.

Red clover seed prices were well below parity during that time. Oregon farmers received an average price this past month of \$48.33 a hundred pounds or \$2.50 less than at mid-January. The average price paid Oregon farmers was \$40 a hundred pounds and a little over \$38 for the country as a whole.

Higher seed prices are reflected in the amount of some kinds of seed being brought into this country. Bentgrass importations for the past seven months totaled over 80,000 pounds compared to only 14,000 a year ago. One of the largest increases in importations was for red clover seed. Some three and a half million pounds came into this country, chiefly from Canada.

Nearly two million pounds of fescue seed landed in the "cave" came into the United States during the same period. Last year during the same seven months, only about one-third million pounds were imported. Since the largest part came in from Canada, it is assumed to be creeping red fescue.

Decreases during that period in importation were shown for alfalfa seed, crimson clover, white clover, chewings fescue and hairy vetch.

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Ranch Ramblings

George Landreth from Coos Bay is a fine new addition to the Willamette Valley, report those who have had the pleasure of knowing him elsewhere. Landreth recently bought the Wilford Weathers farm in the Mission Bottom area. His friends are guessing that—while he raises dairy on Coos Bay—he will be more apt to go into field crops, beef and a pasture program in this area.

Friends of Wilford are counting on him staying right here in the valley, they say.

Francis Williams of Linn County has been assigned to Polk County on a part-time basis for predatory animal control. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Polk County Board, has assigned Francis to take the place of George Morrison who recently resigned.

Francis is a native of the Willamette Valley, born in the Woodburn area. His mother, Mrs. Sam Williams makes her home in Lebanon.

Noel Bennion, it can be truthfully remarked, does an awful lot of hen talk up and down the valley. Just lately Noel, who is poultry specialist from Oregon State College, has been telling the poultrymen in these here parts, that they can get 25 to 30 per cent more eggs by replacing their old hens with pullets every year. He adds that this bigger production will come at a period during the year when egg prices are at their highest. And it's probably true, as Noel seems to know his business when it comes to poultry.

Thirty-one dairy herds, with 844 cows, were included in the month's testing program in Polk County. An average of 569 pounds of milk and 28 pounds of butterfat per cow was produced during the month. George Geismann, Independence, owned the high-producing cow. Her record was 100 pounds of butterfat. Second high-producing cow, a Guernsey, was owned by Russell Hills, Salem. She came out with 83.5 pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. Oren Morris and Frank Jungke in the Tallman Community north of Lebanon have new chicks on their farms. Last Saturday a group of Oregon State College students under the supervision of John Wolfe, associate professor in agriculture engineering, blessed the 125 feet of drainage ditches on the two farms.

The finished ditches average two feet deep, two feet wide on the bottom and eight feet wide on top. Dynamite cost was \$10.72 per 100 feet of ditch, or 29 cents per cubic yard of earth removed.

The finished ditches are a part of a project that farmers intend to develop under the PMA drainage practice.

If you are not planning a commercial planting, Cascade is one of the best trailing berry varieties for home garden use in Western Oregon, we are told. Its flavor is similar to that of a wild blackberry. But it lacks firmness for the commercial pack. Except for relatively poor appearance after processing, it has rated well in canning and frozen pack tests.

Cascade was selected in 1935 from a cross between the Zielinski and the Loganberry. Zielinski was a selection of the western dewberry found in 1924 by B. C. Zielinski, Salem. Loganberry was originated by Judge Logan in 1880 by crossing a red raspberry with a blackberry.

Julian Calls Meet Of Linn Ag Council

Albert Julian of Lyons, chairman, reports that Linn County Agricultural Planning Council will hold its annual meeting in Albany at the State Hotel on March 18.

Council members include Robert Irish, Mrs. W. W. Abraham, Shedd; Hubert Willoughby, Gerald Detering, Harrisburg; Merle Manning, Brownsville; R. H. Murphy, Gordon Rys, Albany; J. S. Ruby, Scio and Mrs. Jess Peterson, Lebanon.

Deadline Near for Valley Ram Sale

The 12th annual Willamette Valley Ram Sale has been set for Albany, August 2, reports O. Mikesell, Albany, sale secretary. The sale committee has set consignments at 160 rams and 50 ewes, in nine breeds with entries to be returned to the secretary by March 25.

E. F. Hubbard, Corvallis, is sale manager. Claude Steusloff, Salem, and Eldon Riddell, Independence, are the other members of the sale committee.

STRONG DEMAND FOR NEW CLOVER

Dixie crimson clover, a new strain for which the seed demand far exceeds the supply, has been added to the certified seed list in Oregon. It is a reseeding type with hard seed. Shattering out in mid-summer, seeds lie dormant until fall when sufficient moisture is available for germination. In the deep south where the variety is gaining popularity for pasture as well as a cover and green manure crop, the shattering and hard seed characteristics have been found advantageous.

Hen Houses Described by Poultry Men

That a wide field exists in modern poultry housing was shown in the poultry meeting held during the week at the Marion County extension office in Salem.

A four-man panel of producers brought the advantages and shortcomings of their particular buildings before the listeners. William Manning of Woodburn has one and two story tile houses. Manning said deep litter worked well for him, partly because the cement floors have eight to 12 inches of gravel fill under them. One hen house has sawdust litter that is two years old and still in good condition.

U. J. Kirk of St. Paul reported his open air wire houses cost about one-third as much as conventional buildings and that they gave good results. A 200-foot house built last year has a mechanical feeder chain and 3 by 5 foot pens will hold as many as 20 hens each. The one-by-two inch welded wire pens make a good place to raise pullets, he added. Six week old chicks did well last season in the wire cages.

Radiant heated concrete floors have done an effective job of raising broilers for Mr. and Mrs. Ed Swartz of Jefferson. With mechanical feeders Swartz got a 2.8 pound feed conversion ratio, he said. That is, he explained, each 2.88 pounds of feed produced one pound of chicken meat.

Marcus Wampack, Mt. Angel, pointed out that he felt the open air houses with wire floors needed a windbreak around them. Lath, he said, will do a good job.

Quonset House Used
Another house type was described by J. R. Stratford of Aurora, who built a quonset type house with laminated one-by-four inch rafters. The house was covered by aluminum sheeting and had a dirt floor. Stratford said the dirt floor had dry litter all winter while the concrete area was damp.

In discussing other angles in poultry outlook, Ben A. Newell, county agent, pointed to the fact that California has 70 per cent of the west coast production and 70 per cent of the agricultural income.

Talk Starts on Clover Ridge Water Project

Committeemen are now canvassing farmers within the boarder of the proposed Clover Ridge Irrigation Project northeast of Albany to determine their interest. If any, reports Robert W. Schmidt, Albany, chairman of the project.

Organization of a non-profit corporation was authorized at a meeting on March 3, as was the collection of one dollar per acre for irrigated land to defray expenses.

Preliminary surveys made by Marvin Shearer, irrigation specialist at Oregon State College, show a construction cost of \$67 per acre based on a system capacity of 750 acres. Plans call for the pumping of water from the South Santiam River and distribution through concrete pipe lines and open ditches.

Schmidt says that a public meeting is being called on March 17, 8 p. m. in the Morning Star Grange Hall to determine the future of the project.

Two Rats Plus 5 Years Equals Billions of Rats

The offspring of a single pair of rats multiply to 940,389,968, 152 in a period of five years provided all descendants are healthy and undisturbed, according to the U. S. Public Health Service. Rats produce an average of five litters a year with four to nine rats to the litter. They have a big appetite, but the worst part is that rats destroy three or four times as much as they eat.

Although it is no disgrace to have rats, it's foolish to keep them and it costs too much not to keep warring on them, the health department says. Rat-proof buildings are effective, but so are the new rat and mouse poisons now on the market. Safeguard children, pets and chickens, by putting the poison in a bait box constructed and fastened so that only rats and mice can reach the poison, the health service advises.

NEW VACCINE IS SAFER

New hog cholera vaccine produced by injecting the virus into rabbits, has been tested on thousands of hogs and found to be safer than the live virus and the counteracting serum treatments it promises to replace. Close attention to the directions for administering, as provided by the producer of the vaccine, are advised.

Farm Price Level Drops In Past Month

The general level of prices received by Oregon farmers dropped 1 per cent between Jan. 15 and Feb. 15, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported Wednesday. This is the first decline since prices started advancing August 15, 1931. A small increase in the average returns from wheat, feed grains, hay and fruit was offset by a sharp decrease in potato prices, resulting in an overall decrease of 1 per cent for all crops. Prices of meat animals, eggs and wool declined from 2 to 5 per cent during the past month, but the increase in the prices of dairy products held the drop in livestock and livestock products to 1 per cent.

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