

Alternative uses of grass straw limited

Oregon State University (OSU) Agricultural Experiment Station has published in conjunction with OSU, a report about potential markets for grass seed straw that presents a different view than a report published in February by CH2M-Hill, an engineering consulting firm.

"Opportunities in Grass Straw Utilization: An Alternative Viewpoint" examines the economic market for straw as a fiber source. The report also ranks potential uses for grass seed straw based on economic, environmental and technical feasibility, said Frank Conklin, one of the authors of the report and an OSU professor of agricultural and

resource economics.

"Some of us who worked on the earlier study published in February felt it was important to present an alternative interpretation of earlier findings," said Conklin. "Differences arose among authors in assessing the seriousness of some technical obstacles, predicting the time required to surmount the technical problems and the characterizing the nature of future market conditions and circumstances influencing further straw utilization."

The new OSU report notes that some grass straw is used commercially for cattle feed and hydro-mulch, but says the amount used in alternative manners is small com-

pared to the total available, now that open-field burning acreage has declined markedly.

If wood chip prices continue to rise, then straw may become an economical substitute in pulp and paper products and panel board, according to the report.

Using grass seed straw as a power plant fuel, boiler fuel or home stove fuel is at least a decade away and would require an 80 to 100 percent increase in natural gas prices or a near doubling in Pacific Northwest power sale rates, explained Conklin. Straw combustion problems involving undesired slag and flying ash deposits in boilers will have to be solved first, he said.

Using straw for commercial compost, potting medium and in the

manufacture of chemicals was deemed unknown or unlikely, said the report, because of small markets, transportation costs or unknown technical feasibilities.

"What is clear is that potential commercial markets for straw have improved over the last decade," said Conklin. "However, such improvement still leaves straw as only a marginally competitive substitute for existing wood fiber raw material sources and only under certain conditions."

"Grass Seed Straw Utilization: An Alternative Viewpoint," OSU Agricultural Experiment Station Special Report 881, is available at no charge from the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.



Information Provided By:

OSU Warm Springs Extension
1134 Palute Street
PO Box 430
Warm Springs, OR 97761
(503) 553-3238/3239

Calendar of Events and Happenings

June 16-21	4-H Summer Week, Oregon State University
June 23-27	Round Lake 4-H Camp, near Sisters, Oregon
July 12-14	Challenge Camp Counselor Training at Trout Lake at the High Lakes in Warm Springs
July 25-28	Jefferson County Fair, Madras, Oregon
July 31-Aug. 4	Deschutes County Fair, Redmond, Oregon
August 11-15	Challenge Camp at Trout Lake at the High Lakes in Warm Springs
August 14-18	Crook County Fair in Prineville, Oregon
August 20	Warm Springs 4-H Leaders executive meeting at the OSU Extension office from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Used clothing may save \$\$

Many families with limited clothing budgets are finding that buying used clothing can be both economical and stylish.

Used clothing can be a good buy for the careful shopper.

Sources of used clothing include garage or yard sales, rummage sales, use-clothing stores and neighborhood used-clothing swaps conducted by civic clubs, school or churches.

The experienced shopper will shop with an eye for garments that fit in with the existing wardrobes of family members.

It is recommended to go with a list of body measurements (bust, chest, waist, hip and length) for each family member and a tape measure to help ensure that clothes will fit.

Children's winter coats and jackets, skirts, long pants, shirts and sweaters can be purchased at bargain prices. Children's used play clothes are thrifty buys, since children outgrow items so fast.

For adults, coats, suits, trousers, dresses, skirts and jackets may cost only a fraction of the cost of new ready-to-wear garments. Accessories

such as scarves, jewelry and handbags can also be good buys.

When shopping for clothing to be used "as is" without extensive alterations, select garments currently in style so the wearer will not feel uncomfortable in them.

It is also recommended that shoppers look for:

Fabrics in good condition, especially at the points of wear, such as knees, elbows, cuffs and the seat.

Durable stitching that is intact.

Elastic that has retained its stretch.

Zippers in good working order.

Buttons still securely attached.

Sturdy buttonholes that are free from raveling.

Garments without faded areas.

Garments that are clean and pressed.

Belts securely attached to garments.

It's also important to look for garment labels on used clothing that tell cloth fiber content, care instructions and size. Although they sometimes are missing from used clothes, labels give valuable information about garments.

Don't let summer boredom set in

Now that school's out, you know it will come. "I'm bored...I don't have anything to do."

Help your child realize that boredom is a choice and your school-ager can choose to become un-bored.

Before boredom becomes an issue, help your child be prepared. The two of you can create a list of possible activities that he or she would like to do. It helps to create your child in an energetic or creative mood, rather than to give this as an "assignment."

Sign up now!!

Be the first among your friends to sign up for 4-H camp!

The first camp will be held July 13, 14 and 15 and is the 4-H Challenge Camp Counselor Training for 9th through 12th grade students. Cost is \$30.

The second camp will be the Warm Springs Challenge Camp to be held August 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in Jefferson County. Cost is \$30.

Pull out this list whenever boredom threatens. Don't try to limit the list but make sure everything is "do-able" in your home or neighborhood. Then be prepared to let your school-ager have a good summer.

Fruits added for zesty variety, nutrition

Zesty Tuna 'n' Fruit Salad

¾ cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
Grated peel and juice of ½ lemon
2 cans (7 oz.) tuna, drained and chunked
1 cup grapes, cut in half and seeded
4 oranges, peeled, cut in bite-size pieces, drained
1 red apple, unpeeled, cut in bite-size pieces
½ cup chopped walnuts
Salad greens and lemon wedges

In bowl, combine mayonnaise, lemon peel and juice. Stir in tuna, grapes, oranges, apple and walnuts; chill. Serve on salad greens. Garnish with lemon wedges. Makes 6 servings.

"Just For Kids" Fruit Pops

1½ cups orange juice
1 can (about 6 oz.) apple, grape or pineapple juice or cranberry juice cocktail
6 (3-ounce) paper cups
6 small plastic spoons or wooden sticks

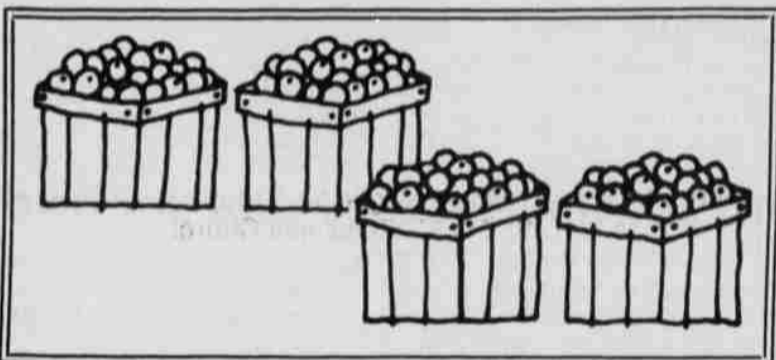
Combine the juice and pour into the paper cups. Freeze until almost firm, about 30 to 45 minutes. For the handles, insert the plastic spoons or wooden sticks in an upright position. Freeze until firm. To serve, allow the "pops" to stand at room temperature for a few minutes and remove from the paper cups. Makes six cups.

Summer Citrus Fruit Punch

2 pints raspberry sherbet
1 cup lemon juice
1 cup orange juice
½ cup sugar
2 bottles (28 oz. each) ginger ale, chilled
1 bottle (32 oz.) cranberry juice cocktail, chilled

Soften 1 pint sherbet. In punch bowl, combine softened sherbet, lemon juice, orange juice and sugar; stir to dissolve sugar. Add ginger ale and cranberry juice. With ice cream scoop, float remaining one pint sherbet on top of punch. Makes about 15 cups (20 6-ounce servings).

Green up a brown thumb with these helpful planting and gardening ideas



Pruning helps lilacs bloom

Lilac shrubs that seem to have fewer blooms than in past years may need some pruning to renew their vigor. When lilacs bloom they are producing their new annual growth and next year's blossom buds. This growth pattern means there is no time of year that a lilac can be pruned without removing some flower buds.

For best results, prune the shrub so that only non-flowering wood is removed. Flower buds are produced from large buds on the ends of vigorous new growth. Prune out the lateral and spindly growth that rarely produces blooms.

Annual pruning, though not essential, will keep lilac bushes in

good health.

Renovation of old bushes is usually best done in the winter, but can be safely done in the late spring after bloom. To renovate lilac shrubs, remove some of the old wood in the shrub near ground level. Be careful to prune no more than a fifth of the shoots that have already bloomed. This severe pruning of some branches while leaving most intact gives the shrub a solid framework on which new growth can be established.

Renovation pruning is needed only every few years. To promote a healthy crop of lilac blooms next year, clip the blossom heads off the plant after they bloom this year.

Thin, thin, thin those young plants

Garden vegetables need room to grow. That requires thinning, pulling and discarding some seedlings to provide growing space for others.

Many gardeners plant too much seed and then are so proud of all the plants growing up that they don't thin enough.

Leaving plants crowded in their rows can result in stunted, poorly developed vegetables, or no vegetables at all. Most seed packets

indicate the proper spacing between plants. Follow seed packet instructions closely.

Onions, carrots and beets need space to grow both above and beneath the ground surface. The leaves of these plants are essential for gathering the sunlight the plant needs to manufacture the carbohydrates stored in the edible root or bulb.

Nitrogen beneficial to gardens

An application of nitrogen fertilizer will keep home gardens going strong in late May and early June.

Lawns need fertilizer, too

It's early summer lawn feeding time and an application of nitrogen fertilizer in June will keep home lawns growing vigorously throughout the summer. Many fertilizer formulations manufactured specifically for grasses are available for lawns.

Weed and feed combinations will do extra duty by killing early summer weeds. Follow all directions for using these fertilizers printed on the package.

Follow basic dos and don'ts while working in home garden

Home gardening, like life in general, is full of dos and don'ts. Here are some basic gardening and landscaping don'ts.

Don't be a dullard. Sharpen your blades, hedge trimmers, pruning shears and other cutting tools. Rough cuts not only create an unsightly appearance, they also delay healing and provide entry points for fungi.

Don't be extravagant. More is not always better. Most applications of gardening materials are prescribed in specific amounts—for example, fertilizer, seed and pesticides. Twice as much fertilizer as necessary can often burn. Two seeds in the place of one results in two puny plants rather than one sturdy one. An overdose of insecticide can destroy plant life. Make sure you read the instructions that appear on every package, box or bottle.

Spread additional nitrogen along vegetable rows and water it into the soil. This method of fertilizing is

Ammonium sulfate and ammonium nitrate are alternatives to special lawn fertilizers. When using these nitrogen sources, apply one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Ammonium nitrate contains 33 percent nitrogen; a five pound box will fertilize 1,500 square feet.

Ammonium sulfate contains 21 percent nitrogen; a five pound box will cover 1,000 square feet of lawn.

known as sidedressing. Ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate and urea are good sources of nitrogen for the garden. A complete fertilizer such as a 10-10-10 combination is also a good source of nitrogen for the garden.

Apply sidedressings at the following rates: ammonium sulfate, one-half cup per ten feet; ammonium nitrate, one-third cup per ten feet; urea, one-fourth cup per ten feet.

Be careful not to apply extra nitrogen to tomatoes. The tomato plant will channel the nitrogen into excessive vegetative growth at the expense of the newly developing tomatoes.



Use care, patience when planting annuals

If you want to add some fast color to the yard with annual flowers, or get the vegetable garden off and running with a minimum of fuss, bedding plants are your best bet.

A tremendous variety of ornamental and vegetable bedding plants are available at garden stores now. Here are a few tips for bedding plant success.

■ Don't plant outside until the season in your area has warmed enough for the plants to grow.

■ Select plants that are well-established in their containers, but are not overgrown. Bedding plants often transplant better if they are not yet blooming.

■ Allow plants to harden off (adjust) to your yard's conditions before planting. Bring the plants home and set them outside in a protected place, but exposed to your area's temperature and humidity conditions, for several days.

■ Protect the bedding plant roots from drying until planted.

■ When planting, set plants at the recommended spacing.

■ Plant in late afternoon or early evening. Plant into moist soil.

■ Plant bedding plants at the same depth at which they were previously growing.

■ Retain as much soil on the roots as possible.

■ Firm the soil around the roots when planting, then water.

■ Protect the young plants from

drying until they are established.

■ A day or two after planting, water with a booster fertilizer solution to give the plants a little push.

Young weeds try to take over shrub and flower beds in spring. Keep them out by hoeing or mulch-

ing. The back side of an iron rake will wipe out young weed seedlings by the hundreds. Then follow up with an inch or so of barkdust mulch to shade the ground and keep weeds under control.

Fast color, instant greenery a reward of ornamentals

Growing annual flowers around the home landscape gives instant reward. Colorful ornamentals, such as marigolds, petunias, snapdragons, pansies, summer dahlias and candytufts, mature, flower and die all in a single summer growing season.

The many kinds of annual flowers available permit homeowners to choose varieties for every taste and situation.

Most annuals are easy to grow and provide continuous color over a long season.

Set annuals among newly-planted shrubs or in beds and borders. Annuals are also ideal for hanging baskets, patio tubs, outdoor planters and window boxes.

Although flowering annuals can be grown from seed, most people buy them as bedding plants from local nurseries.

Look for sturdy, clean, well-branched specimens that haven't bloomed out completely, when buy-

ing plants.

Be sure to keep the roots of bedding plants damp until they are planted.

Protect bedding plants from the wind both before and after planting. Give them protection for a week after planting if they are planted in a windy spot.

At planting time, prepare soil where you plant annuals with a fertilizer containing phosphorus. A 5-10-5 formulation is recommended.

At five to six week intervals through the early summer, sprinkle additional light applications of fertilizer around each plant and "water in" the fertilizer. As the annuals bloom, cut the flowers for bouquets, or simply enjoy them on the plant.

As the flowers begin to fade, remove them from the plant to encourage new flowering. If the old flowers are not removed, they will set seed and the plant will stop blooming altogether.

Tires help plants grow faster

Discarded automobile tires may not be pretty, but they are useful in home gardens.

An old tire placed around a tomato plant absorbs heat during the day and releases it to the plant during the night. As a result, the tomato plant grows faster. The tire also tends to keep the plant upright and off the ground. Use one tire casing around each plant.

When the tomato plants are small, clear plastic can be stretched over the tire on clear nights to hold in warmth and produce a greenhouse effect. Be sure to remove the plastic during the day.

Eventually the plants will need

some type of support to keep the leaves and fruit off the ground. Frames or stakes minimize fruit rot and keep the branches out of reach of slugs. More importantly, a support structure improves air circulation around the plant and helps prevent disease, especially late blight.

Effective supports, about 18 inches in diameter and one to five feet high, can be made of wood or concrete-reinforcing wire. With this method, no plant pruning is necessary.

Protect strawberries from birds

A patch of plump, ripening, home-grown strawberries is like a signal beacon to hungry birds around your neighborhood. Leave strawberries unprotected, and local birds may clean out your strawberry patch faster than you can say bluejay.

Even home landscapes devoid of birds will suddenly attract legions of them when tree and vine fruits

ripen.

One way to keep pesky birds away from ripening fruits is to drape cheesecloth or special bird-netting over the strawberry patch. Netting works for fruit trees and grape vines too. Protect bush and other vine fruits by putting chicken wire or some other type of netting materials over the top and sides of the plant.

