

Seed Flax Growing in Oregon

By G. R. Hyston, Agronomist at Oregon Experiment Station

Seed flax, which is the kind of flax grown for seed production only, is used almost exclusively in the manufacture of linseed oil and its by-product, oil meal. The linseed oil is one of the most important constituents of paint and the linseed oil meal is one of the best of the concentrated dairy cow feeds.

There is no special equipment required except that some grain drills need flax reducers which are quite inexpensive. Although it is not absolutely necessary, some farmers may desire flax bunching attachments for their binders. The crop is sowed with ordinary machines, is harvested with ordinary harvesting equipment and threshed with ordinary threshers.

Special Inducement to Dairymen
The company permits growers to purchase at a reduced price linseed oil meal to the extent that may be produced from their delivery of flax seed. This amounts to 27 pounds of oil meal for each 50 pounds of flax seed delivered. They charge one-half the price per pound for the seed. At current prices this is substantially less than farmers are paying for this valuable cow feed, but it is not mandatory that they accept it if the United States flax seed price should fall substantially below the company's guaranteed minimum. The crop looks very attractive.

How Does It Affect Soil?
And now about the effect on fertility. Flax is not hard on the soil. It is no harder on fertility than a grain crop. A dollar's worth of flax removes less plant food than a dollar's worth of grain.

Foils used to believe flax ruined the soil. It was because of diseased varieties planted too often in succession on the same land. Disease accumulated and limited flax crops. Now flax growers know that rotating crops and early planting with disease resistant varieties assure good crops.

Calculating the nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash removed, at the current prices and the grain and flax at prices indicated, the table shows that flax is not hard on the soil.

Table showing acre value of crops at specified prices and value of plant foods removed calculated at current prices for fertilizers.
Flax, yield bushels an acre 10; estimated price \$2.52 bu.; value of plant food removed by acre yields \$5.27. Oats, yield bushels an acre 37.5; estimated price \$1.60 T.; estimated value per acre \$16.80; value of plant food removed by acre yields \$6.18. Wheat, (Pacific Coast) yield bushels an acre 20; estimated price \$1.25 bu.; estimated value per acre \$25.00; value of plant food removed by acre yields \$5.19. Barley, yield bushels an acre, 25; estimated price \$30.00 T.; estimated value per acre, \$18.00; value of plant food removed by acre yields, \$5.98.

Further, land that will produce 20 bushels an acre in spring wheat or 37.5 bushels of white spring oats will produce over 10 bushels an acre of flax.

National Grange Notes

National Grange Master Louis J. Taber has recently addressed big farmers' meetings in more than a dozen states and has traveled thousands of miles since New Year's with many more long speaking trips planned between now and warm weather.

Twenty-four new Granges were organized in the United States during the month of January, with many new fields under cultivation.

A Grange in Maryland assumed the entire work of grading the grounds around the new township

high school building and members and teams did a good job, while an entertainment put on by the Grange supplied enough money to adorn the grounds with ample shrubs.

An Oregon Grange devoted one meeting to a demonstration in mending leaky tinware, greatly to the interest of thrifty housewives in that locality.

In one Michigan subordinate Grange the 154 members raised more than \$500 in cash the past year, as a welcome contribution towards the hall mortgage.

A combined Grange audience of twenty million people describes the total of meetings each year held by this vigorous, up-and-coming farm organization.

Much interest has been aroused by the discovery that President Coolidge's father and mother were active members of the Grange, in their Vermont home; and the President well remembers as a small boy hearing Grange "secrets" talked over at home when he was not supposed to be listening!

The Ohio State Grange has launched a vigorous discussion favoring the employment in practical trades of the prisoners confined in the various state institutions and all possible Grange influence will be exerted towards the adoption of such a system, following its successful operation in other states. Idleness among Ohio prisoners is very pronounced and the Grange will make a strong stand on this issue.

Soil Rejuvenation Needed for Prune Crops

Winter Damage to Trees Most Often Due to Weakening Result from Lack of Proper Care and Nourishment.

Prune orchards in some sections of Oregon are run down due to the fact that in many cases the grove is on lower ground, where the soil is robbed of its fertility by wheat growing before the trees were set out, and the trees themselves have been steadily allowed to deteriorate since being set out.

Professor C. E. Schuster of Oregon Agricultural college told the Marion-Polk county realtors' association at its meeting at Salem last week.

"We established our stations here because the situation is coming to a head in this section more than in any other," said Professor Schuster. "There is a larger acreage, and the trees are older, here than anywhere else in the state."

"It is probable," he said, "that the trees in a weakened condition, due to lack of care, old age and poor nutrition." Some farmers had pruned their trees severely, others had tried other things in some cases, he said, but there had been no complete and thorough attempt to keep the prune orchards in condition.

Professor Schuster expressed the opinion that eventually the problem of rejuvenating the trees would be solved, if at all, through cover crops, putting humus into the soil by that method.

Dance
Dreamland hall, every Wednesday and Saturday night.

Orchard Cover Crops Are Generally Beneficial

Found to Increase the Frost Hazard Slightly But not Enough to Damage the Fruit to any Extent.

The weather bureau of the United States department of agriculture has conducted several experiments in citrus growing sections of California to determine what influence a cover crop has on the temperature of the orchard atmosphere on a frosty night.

Purple yetch, a heavy volunteer crop of broad winter horse beans, and many high weeds were included in the cover crop in these experiments.

The conclusions reached were that while the cover crop increased the frost hazard very slightly, the difference made in the temperature was not such as to damage the fruit seriously. At a height of 5 feet above the ground, the air temperature was depressed by the presence of the cover crop only 0.1 degree F., and 1 degree F. at a height of 10 inches. Since there is usually but little fruit near the ground these slight differences should have little effect on the damage to fruit.

In many cases increased damage is probably due to the fact that the grove is on lower ground, where the temperature is naturally lower. Differences in the amount of damage between clean cultivated groves and those in cover crops may also be attributed to some other influence, such as temperature, such as decreased vigor of the tree, due to competition from the cover crop, a less dormant condition of the trees caused by more frequent irrigations, or increased deposit of moisture on

the fruit or foliage from dew or frost. The cover crop also acts as a windbreak, allowing the cold air to accumulate near the ground, and preventing it from mixing with the warmer air above.

Oregon cherry growers are liable to have their crops rejected this year unless they spray their trees for cherry worms. Last year many cherries were rejected because of cherry worms, says C. L. Long, extension specialist in horticulture at the college, and this year the growers and others will reject affected fruit. Spraying for cherry worm eliminates this condition.

How to Control the Fruit Cherry Fly

Somewhere from June 5 to June 20 Danger Dates, and Spraying with Poison Bait should Be Carefully Done.

Good care of Oregon cherries grown for canning purposes calls for sprays that will not injure the cherries for canning.

From approximately June 5 to 20, the adult fruit-cherry fly appears in the orchard and stays for about three weeks. These flies eating the cherries, placing the eggs underneath the surface of the skin of the fruit, hence the adult flies are attacked. As it is their habit to lap up greedily any sweet substance on the surface of the foliage during this period, sweetened poison-bait spray treatment has been developed to kill them.

The formula for the preparation of the poison bait is as follows: lead arsenate, one half pound; molasses or sirup, (never honey)

two pounds; and water 10 gallons. This amount is sufficient for spraying approximately 50 trees.

Free spray treatments are given, the first when the adult flies appear; the second about 10 days after the first; and the third about a week after the second. Approximately one pint to one quart of solution to the tree is sufficient.

Cherry sprays with lime-sulfate solution of nicotine sulfate injure the canned product and are not to be used.

The direction for spraying fruit flies are to be followed closely to insure cherries free from cherry maggots. Complete directions can be obtained from the O. A. C. experiment station circular 35, Corvallis.

Programs by KPO

The KPO Sunday features include an organ recital by Marshall W. Gieselman, playing at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor; concerts by Ruby Seliger's Fairmount hotel orchestra, Cyrus Trobber's Palace hotel orchestra and Waldemar Lind's States restaurant orchestra, and a dance program by Henry Halsted's Pompano cafe orchestra. During Gieselman's recital Louise D. Wolbert, mezzo-soprano, will be soloist.

Two Definitions

Here's what one schoolboy wrote in his examination paper: "The hen is the bird that lays the breakfast. A cow is an animal you get milk from when the grocery store is closed."—The Progressive Grocer.

Natural Enough

Diner: "Why does that dog sit there and watch me all the time?"
Waiter: "You've got the plate he usually eats from, sir."—The Progressive Grocer.

That Extra Beauty It Means Everything

By Edna Wallace Hopper



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