

FARM & HOME PAGE

NOTES BY THE WAYSIDE

(By John J. Inskip, County Extension Agent)

The following article was written at the request of Mrs. Mrs. Hugh Ping of Stafford, secretary of Oregon Holly Growers Association. Since the principles involved are common to many tree crops we decided to include it in Notes by the Wayside.

How shall I fertilize my holly trees?? Which plant food elements do holly trees respond to, if any? Some say holly growers should use lots of potash and point to the importance of potassium as a plant food. Others say that we are throwing money away to use phosphorus or potash and need to use nitrogen only. Each of these recom-

mendations and several others may be correct for any one planting during any one season. The more intelligent approach, it seems is to obtain a reliable soil analysis and to start from there. I have before me at this moment soil test reports from two Clackamas County orchards. One soil contains only 2 lbs. of phosphorus per acre; the other contains 118 lbs. per acre.

It could well be that the first field would respond to use of phosphate bearing fertilizers. Perhaps this element would be a big help in obtaining a good set of fertile berries. It is likely that phosphorus on the second field would be like throwing good money away.

It is quite evident from experiments conducted by Oregon State College that the primary need in the holly orchard is nitrogen in one form or another. But until we know more than

we do today it would seem wise to provide a certain minimum of phosphate and potassium. Otherwise, we might not obtain results from the nitrogen applied.

Potassium is good for growing plants, we are told. We believe this to be so. But let us take a look at the potassium content of these same soils. Number 1, with a low of 2 lbs. of phosphorus per acre, has a terrifically high potash or potassium content of 910 lbs. per acre. It would seem logical, wouldn't it, that one include phosphorus with nitrogen in this field. But wouldn't we possibly be throwing money away to apply potassium here?

How about such trace elements as magnesium, boron and sulphur? Field No. 1 contains 750 lbs. of magnesium per acre. Number 2 has 240 lbs. per acre. These seem like quite adequate amounts. But we know of another orchard where phosphorus and potassium contents are quite adequate but with only 160 lbs. of magnesium per acre.

Sure we don't know the effect of using magnesium on holly trees. We believe that use of a reasonable amount will do no harm. Can we afford to wait 20 years to find out whether or not we are wasting money to bring magnesium content up? I think not—the same holds true for boron. Use of boron in excess could cause serious tree damage. This material should not be used with out expert advice. There is some reason to suspect that purple leaf blotching may be due to lack of sulphur, boron or magnesium in the soil.

Properly confused by this time? Then call at the extension office located in your county. Ask for directions for taking soil samples and obtain cartons for shipping samples. Have a complete analysis made including tests for magnesium and boron.

Your county extension staff will then make fertilizer recommendations, except possibly for nitrogen use, because, even a soil analysis will not tell the nitrogen story.

Annual removal of spray holly is the common practice in the well managed holly orchard composed of trees with consistent bearing habits. This is a crop. But the practice results in removal of limbs and leaves. Nitrogen in one form or another must be used to produce new removal of limbs and leaves. Wise use of nitrogen also serves to maintain that desirable glossy green leaf color.

But no one can hand down a blanket recommendation for use of nitrogen in the holly planting. We can tell you of some of the problems involved so that you can make good use

of your own good judgement and perhaps do a little experimenting on your own.

Normal average trees 10 to 12 feet high should probably receive 1 lb. of actual nitrogen per year; anyhow, this would be a reasonable expectation. This means 5 lbs. of ammonium sulphate per tree of 3 lbs. of ammonium nitrate or a little over 2 lbs. of commercial area.

However as pointed out by Frank Maceness of the Portland General Electric Co. in a recent address to the Oregon Holly Growers Association, each tree should be fertilized as an individual. Even within the same variety there will be individual variations. Trees recently cut heavily should usually receive more fertilizer than those which have not. Light bearing is sometimes a varietal characteristic. Many individual trees seem to lack the natural vigor found in their neighbors. These will need additional nitrogen applications. The same is true in areas of comparatively poor drainage or seepy spots.

And then there is the matter of variety. These late maturing varieties are a real problem. If they have a good berry crop and there is a lack of nitrogen the leaves may turn yellow. If they are over-fertilized with nitrogen the berries may not ripen in time for harvest. In either case the sprays are unfit for market.

In these heavy growing late maturing varieties heavy annual pruning may substitute to some extent for use of nitrogen fertilizers. The idea is to keep new growth coming near the trunk of the tree and to eliminate long scraggly growth which is of no particular value. Removal of such excess growth reduces the size of the tree and less fertilizer is needed as consequence. Certain varieties may be expected to produce heavier crops of choice spray when so managed.

In the most desirable heavy producing varieties it is quite easy to prune the tree along with harvest of the crop. In certain less desirable varieties annual pruning is an extra and very costly chore. There is some interest in top working these less desirable varieties to those more desirable. One or more of these plantings may be visited during the June tour. The desirability of this practice is yet to be proven.

PETER TOMPKINS GETS PETTY OFFICER RANK
SAN DIEGO, Calif.— Selected at the Naval Training Center San Diego, Calif. as apprentice petty officers third class was Peter J. Tompkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Perry J. Tompkins of Estacada, Oregon.

The Apprentice Petty Officers, graduated March 9, were chosen from the ranks of the seaman recruits to assist the Company Commanders. The selection was made on the basis of aptitude and leadership qualities of each individual.

GREAT SURGE OF TOURISTS EXPECTED THIS YEAR

The western part of the United States and Canada may expect the greatest surge of tourists in history during the coming season. That was the consensus of reports from AAA travel experts from the eleven western states and the three western provinces of Canada at the Third Annual Conference of AAA Field Reporters in Portland recently.

Factors leading to the increase in tourism for the west were listed by the AAA experts as these:

- 1: Greater numbers of persons with paid vacations.
- 2: Increased interest in automobile travel to distant points.
- 3: Disturbed conditions in Europe resulting in cancellation of certain European vacation cruises and turning of interest to the western part of the country and the Pacific basin.
- 4: Improved highways leading into the recreation areas of the west.

Sounding the keynote for the conference, Wes Curtis, manager of the Rocky Mountain Auto Club and chairman of the conference, declared that AAA motor clubs in this area must assure safe, adequate and comfortable accommodations for the greatest invasion of tourists the area has seen.

Representatives at the conference were from all western states and western Canada and spoke for more than a third of the entire AAA membership in the United States and Canada.

LITTLE LEAKS BLOW TO U. S. ECONOMY

A blonde, 27-year old fashion stylist with a boyish bob will soon fly around the world at taxpayers' expense to improve the morale of overseas Air Force wives by showing them the latest trends in womens gowns, lingerie, costume jewelry and accessories.

She will interpret, so the Pentagon announcement says, "the prevailing mood of fashion in the United States for wives and families of service personnel abroad." She will stage fashion shows at our most primitive remote bases.

She will inventory shelves to make sure that they carry the latest modes in stock, and that they are properly displayed. Her rank will be that of Fashion Coordinator. The Pentagon blurb does not mention that when overseas wives return, the "prevailing mood" may have completely changed.

Important to Taxpayers. This odd assignment would appear to be an incredible and un-

believable mission, as well as hardly worth any publicity, if it did not emphasize a Washington trend of vital importance to every heavily burdened taxpayer.

It is the aggregate of little leaks of money into such outlandish activities as overseas feminine wear which contributes to swollen budget and burdensome taxes. Although they do not run into billions by themselves, they do reflect a careless and cynical attitude toward and handling of the people's hard-earned wages and salaries.



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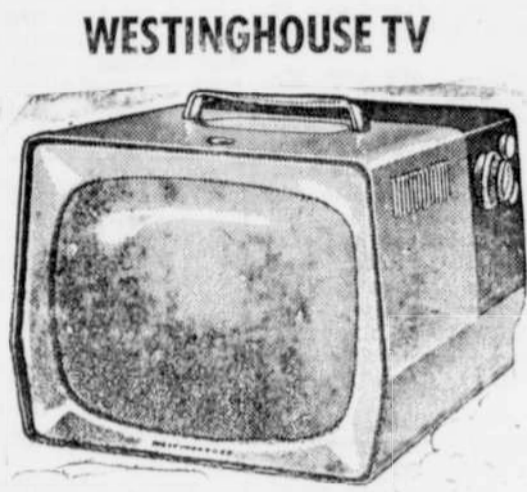
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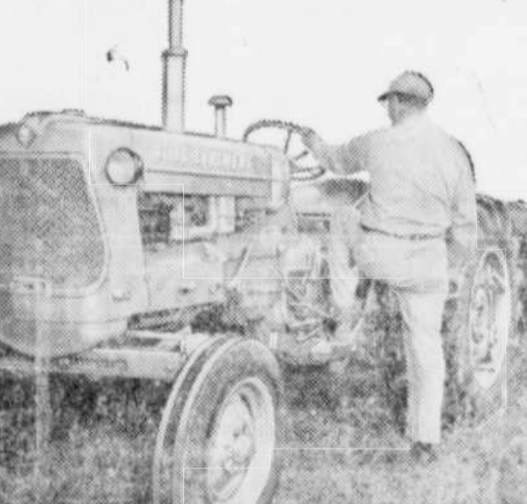


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