

OREGON TOPS IN SEED PRODUCTION

To seed and maintain the grasslands of America each year, it requires some 200 trillion grass and legume seeds with Oregon ranking at the top of the national production list in supplying this total.

These statistics and the story of the development of the seed

industry in America—a development that has come entirely in the last 25 years—are told in a new book, "Grassland Seeds" by D. D. Hill, head of the farm crops department at culture research for the Oregon State college, and W. A. Wheeler, director of agricultural seed institute of North America.

The book is the most complete report ever issued on grass and legume seeds used for forage, pasture, soil conservation and other turf plantings in the U.S.

The West has moved into the center of the stage in seed production in this country and appears to be the main salvation for seed-hungry Midwest and

Eastern states, Hill reports. The great diversity of soil and climatic conditions in the Western States make it possible to produce a wide variety of top quality seeds. Oregon is particularly well suited.

Ten-year production averages from 1944 to 1953 show that Oregon ranks first in the production of common and perennial ryegrass seed, chewings and red fescue, bentgrass, vetch and alsike clover seed; second in tall fescue and Austrian winter pea seeds; fifth in crimson clover seed; sixth in white clover seed; seventh in Sudan grass seed and tenth in red clover seed.

Last year the total grass seed production in Oregon was 193,000,000 pounds. In some cases, a pound of seed represents tremendous numbers, Hill commented. Bentgrass seeds are so tiny, for example, that it takes more than 5,000,000 of them to weigh a pound.

Grassland agriculture in America has completed the full cycle during the past 100 to 150 years, Hill points out.

"We took the grassland with the accumulated fertility of the centuries; we plowed the land, used and wasted the fertility of the soil; and now we are developing programs for the rejuvenation of the soil and the maintenance of its productivity by learning grassland agriculture" the book reports.

In the beginning, seed was simply seed, Hill noted. No varieties had been developed to meet given conditions, nor was too much known about what species should be grown and where.

Little was known about the peculiarities of culture that were necessary for seed production and it was assumed that if a given species would produce forage, it would also produce seed—a theory that soon proved erroneous.

Today seed production has become a highly specialized business with great advances in improvement of varieties, seed production, and adaptation of grasses to various areas and for various uses.

One of the chapter contributors for the book is John R. Hardison, U. S. department of agriculture plant pathologist who is stationed at OSC. He writes the section on disease problems in forage seed production and distribution. The book is especially designed as a reference for classwork, county agents, and seed growers, processors and dealers.

Oregon farmers will probably follow the national trend this year towards less wheat and corn but a bumper barley crop. Fewer peaches, grapes, and prunes than last year are also expected in Oregon, but increase is in sight for most other field and fruit and nut crops, according to the USDAs July crop report.

Hay production in Oregon for 1957 is estimated at more than two million tons, up 7 percent from last year and 20 percent more than average. The state's barley production is forecast at a record-high of 22 1-2 million bushels, 5 percent larger than last year and nearly double the average harvest.

Present prospects are for a Bartlett pear crop about one-fourth above average, and fall and winter pears are estimated at nearly one-fifth above average. A sizeable crop increase is also expected in Oregon's late summer potatoes.

The generally good prospects for Oregon harvests are in contrast to the national picture. A combination of bad weather and Soil Bank acreage cut-backs has resulted in the smallest planted acreage in nearly 40 years, the economists report. The national crop outlook now looks to be about 7 percent below last year and the smallest since 1951.

Major crops planted last fall and this spring in important areas throughout the United States go of to a slow and unpromising start. Favorable weather for the rest of the growing season could change the picture but probably not enough to match last year's tonnage record.

Meanwhile farm income supported by slightly higher farm prices and Soil Bank payment is holding up. Spending for food has been up about 5 percent, in line with a 5 percent increase in consumer income. About half the increase went to cover higher marketing charges with other half going to farmers.

The Don Dodds wish to thank the unidentified lady who assisted their son when he tipped over on his bike last Tuesday, in front of the post-office.

NOTES BY THE WAYSIDE

(By J. J. Inskeep, Extension Agent)

Mrs. Harriet Story, son Tommy and daughter Julie of Madras were guests Sunday of Mr and Mrs. Royal Gardener. Mrs. Story brought Julie to Portland to appear on the TV Stars of Tomorrow.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Harbert, who have been living in Corvallis were home over the weekend. They plan to return to Estacada when school opens in the fall.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mock and Larry enjoyed a camping trip over Sunday and Monday in the Roaring River area. The weather was lovely but the mosquitoes starved.

HAY PRODUCTION IS UP 7 PER CENT IN OREGON Oregon crop prospects at mid-year are generally favorable but farmers throughout the nation may reap the smallest total crop harvest in six years report Oregon State college agricultural economists.

th. Oats infected with the virus show a red leaf, and at this point we have to make certain that we understand the kind of oats we are considering. The red leaf condition in the spring oats is due to the yellow dwarf virus but the red leaf condition in the fall planted oats is from other causes. The virus will affect spring wheat but the varieties grown in Oregon are resistant to the virus and the sick spring wheat fields are in all probabilities not suffering from virus but rather rust, mildew and Hessian fly."

"The yellow dwarf virus was discovered by C. E. Hornor, OSC plant pathologist who explains it in his way: Fescue, Orchard grass, perennial ryegrass, Bromo and wild oats as host plants or carriers of the disease but aren't affected by it. The disease remains in the carrier plants along the borders of the fields until the time the spring planted oats or barley has just come up. If the season is favorable to aphids, they feed upon the disease carrier plants reproducing in great numbers. They migrate to the seedling barley with the virus which causes the familiar yellowing observed this year. The yellowing is followed by little or no growth, undeveloped root systems, and various degrees of crop failure."

"At this point we wonder about the control of the aphids to stop such troubles in future years. This task would reach such proportions that we would wish we hadn't started. Even more discouraging is the fact that the aphid can carry the virus in its body for long periods of time. Now for the considerations involved in the control of aphids. We would have had to apply spray or dust to the fields every ten days or so to hold the numbers of aphids down to the point where they could do no damage. The job would involve so much cost for spray that the value of the barley, oats saved would not leave any profit for the owner.

The picture is not as dark as it looks, however, since the season is more responsible for the heavy bug infestation than anything else. Such cycles occur rather infrequently, but are in the records. We doubt that we could find any record that would equal the

bad conditions that we face this year. As for sprays now—remember virus diseases cannot be controlled by the use of any chemical. They are disturbances inside the plant cells and once inside are there to stay in spite of all the dust or spray we could use against them. If such a season should appear to be returning next year, we would then urge you to make all plantings in April if possible. This date will allow growth to get ahead of the aphid and little damage will be seen in crops that are well on the way when the virus hits them."

"While you are in the frame of mind to think of the bugs pests, we might say that the first Hessian fly found in Oregon was in a field of wheat growing in Washington County way back in 1897. Dr. L.P. Rockwood and Max Reeher began the laborious task of learning the habits of the Hessian fly and worked out the control measures which are still recognized today as the only effective means of escaping the fly. The federal entomology laboratory at Forest Grove is the outgrowth of the early work done by these two men."

Dusting red clover seed fields for control of insects which attack newly forming seed does not pay, according to O.S.C. Extension Entomologist Robt. Every. But this is not true of alsike and white clover seed stands. For the latter, Every recommends use of 20 pounds of 5 percent DDT per acre. Applications should be made very early in the morning before bees and other beneficial insects become active.

There are other management practices which may increase production of all types of clover seeds in Clackamas County. As we have pointed out several times top dressing with borated landplaster before rains cease is a good practice.

It is also important to provide bees in abundance. How many hives does it take to provide abundance? This would depend upon the number of plants per acre, the vigor of hives available and the number of wild bees in the vicinity. From 1 to 3 hives per acre is a pretty good average.

ANSWER THIS QUESTION

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Those words do come from the Bible. And they have sometimes been quoted to justify a man's lack of concern for the welfare of others.

When we quote Scripture we must be careful WHOM we are quoting!

It was Cain, the first murderer, who asked that biting question. God had said, "Where is Abel, thy brother?" And Cain was trying to escape the consequences of his crime.

Each of us is responsible for his brother's welfare. That is the very reason this feature is appearing in your newspaper.

You and your family need the spiritual resources our churches offer. In whichever Christian congregation you select there are waiting to welcome you many men and women and young people whose faith has taught them a deep concern for their brothers.



CHURCH FOR ALL ... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For the sake of his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and spiritual support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Table with columns: Day, Book, Chapter, Verses. Includes entries for Sunday (Genesis 1-18), Monday (Matthew 20-28), Tuesday (Luke 14-20), Wednesday (I Corinthians 1-13), Thursday (James 19-27), Friday (John 1-18), Saturday (John 19-21).

CLACKAMAS COUNTY NEWS

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DOLLAR SALE ...

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"Wow! Almost late for the coffee break!"

HERE'S HEALTH!

Advertisement for onions featuring illustrations of people eating, a woman peeling an onion, and text: 'ONIONS', 'THE ONION, AMARYLLIS AND NARCISSUS ARE MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY', 'THE VERSATILE ONION, MAIN INGREDIENT IN MANY DISHES, EVEN PHO ENHANCES HUNDREDS MORE AS A SEASONING', 'HOLDING ONIONS UNDER WATER WHILE PEELING THEM PREVENTS TEARS'.