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## Notes by the Wayside

(By John J. Inskip, County Don't expect the impossible from your pasture lands. They need an occasional rest like human beings, especially the grasses when both legumes and grasses are found in the mixture. When traveling the roads of Clackamas County we see many pasture fields which are subject to continuous close grazing. The roots of grass plants on such areas are weakened as a result. They do not respond as quickly to fertilization as those fields from which farm animals are removed during fall and winter months. Retarded plants require a longer recovery period. Of course, it is often necessary to have the stock on pasture during the fall and winter months. But don't overdo it. Where possible, alternate fields so some are pastured one fall and rested the next. Rotation grazing is always desirable. This practice results in more forage per acre. Where rotation grazing is practiced allow the grass to grow to a height of 8 to 10 inches each time before turning the animals in. And, above all, it pays to practice a consistent fertilizer program beginning with a soil test. Our pasture circular presents this program in some detail.

The County Extension office in the basement of the post office in Oregon City will again have a number of Port Orford Cedar trees for general distribution. These seedlings are provided through the courtesy of the Crown Zellerbach Corporation. Crown foresters tell us that more Port Orford cedar trees will be available than for several years. This is the information obtained from the organization's forestry department on Tuesday, March 25. Those on the waiting list were notified immediately. There is no way of telling what the demand for these trees will be. We do not want to keep any individual shipment on hand for longer than a week. In case we find ourselves in short supply applicants will be placed on a short time waiting list. It might be well to call the office so we can place your requirements aside. Our telephone numbers are: OLive 4-6591, Ext. 67 or Oregon City 2641, Ext. 67.

Don't try to eradicate quack and other grasses with creeping rootstalks with presently known selective weed sprays. At least this is the recommendation of the Clackamas County Extension staff. This information is issued as the result of frequent inquiries on the subject. There are two reasons for this bit of advice. 1. The present chemical control processes are too costly. 2. Presently known chemicals will not kill all the grass plants without repeated applications. Suppose, for instance, you obtained a 95 percent kill. It would not take long for the remaining live plants to reinfest the area. So we think this method unpractical until a chemical is found which will provide 100 percent control and at low cost. What, then is our recommendation? Early spring grazing or even a year around close grazing program injures the plants. This grazing or clipping is desirable if not absolutely necessary. Then summer fallow. It doesn't do much good to start the fallow operation until the beginning of the dry period. Then start using a field tiller, or springtooth harrow or some other implement which will bring the roots to the surface where they are quickly killed by the sun. Shallow plowing previous to the first harrowing is also desirable. It is better to turn the furrows on edge than to turn them completely over. The idea is to desiccate the soil. Shallow plowing facilities future harrowing operations. Effectiveness depends upon several factors. The drier the soil the better. Killing of roots brought to the surface is facilitated by dry weather and sunshine. High temperatures are desirable. Better results are obtained during those longer dry summers. Root killing will not be effective unless all roots are brought to the surface. This is sometimes difficult especially for those with light equipment. When all roots are not killed we suggest plowing to a fall crop such as oats and vetch. Nitrogen and phosphorus when needed, will help to get a good stand. Turn the cover crop under in the fall or early spring. Then repeat the summer fallow process. This is not to say that chemical covers are not useful for some. They are especially in corn fields and orchards but that is another story.



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