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Notes by the Wayside

(By John J. Inskeep, County Agent)

New plants and new farm practices are not necessarily good for Clackamas County just because they are new. This is true even though plants and practices are good for other areas. The following article from Wilbur W. Burkhart, County Extension Agent, Washington County, illustrates the point.

"Quite a number of persons have been curious about a new forage plant that came into view this past year. Some of it was grown at various spots and attained a height beyond any other forage plant of its type. A few neighbors saw it and were impressed from the standpoint of tonnage that could be harvested from one acre. The name of this newcomer was Sorghum Grass and brochures were circulated praising its good qualities. We looked for some information on it to indicate that it had been tested recently at experiment stations across the country. No information came to light and the discovery came out at the reason why it was not publicized. A recent survey of the grass and what other states thought of it or what we knew about it brought the following information which we pass on for your use and guidance.

"Sorghum grass is also called sorghum almun, Columbus grass, Sorgo Negro and Sudan Negro. It was brought to light in 1943 by a scientist in Argentina and said to be a cross between Johnson grass and a sorghum. United States growers got their supply from Argentina, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. It is much like Johnson grass except that it is much taller and coarser. The stems are not sweet and quite pithy. Seed closely resembles Johnson grass and so closely approaches it in size, shape and appearance that identification is near impossible.

"When the so-called merits are considered, it cannot exceed other similar grasses such as sudan and Johnson grass in yield. The quality is inferior because of its coarseness and non-sweet nature. It fails to recover after mowing or grazing as rapidly as Sudan. The grass may have one advantage in being perennial and may not winter kill in some areas. Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma have had it winter kill which leaves little doubt about its chances in Oregon. It probably has the same prussic acid poisoning properties as Sudan grass although this point is not certain at the present time.

"The grass requires warm temperatures to gain the most in growth. This past summer was probably ideal or growth since a warm climate is required to get satisfactory performance of the grass. Cooler summers would undoubtedly cause it to slow down in growth and possibly fail to perform at all.

"Other states have opened their eyes to it and have a few

comments to make upon it. Among the comments are those from the states of Arizona, California, Georgia, Indiana, Missouri, Nevada, Washington and Virginia. These states enacted laws on October 1, 1958, listing the plant as a noxious weed and prohibiting the importing or sale of the seed. Prior to this date several other states banned the grass and Kansas took the lead by being the first in the nation to close the door to it.

"What about the use of Sorghum grass? No one can keep you from planting it but laws may be enacted in Oregon making its growth or use illegal. Even if you have no law to stop you from planting it the hazards that may exist in Western Oregon make it a poor choice for a forage crop. We would encourage you to forget the grass and plant none of it on any piece of land no matter how little it will grow when conventional forage crops are planted. There is never any excuse for planting weeds and the action of other states indicates that it is just that."

Our further comment is that we have enough weeds in these parts now. New plants should be introduced only after favorable recommendation by our Experiment Stations.

NOTICE OF BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the City Recorder, City Hall, Estacada, Oregon, up to the hour of 8 P.M. on the 5th day of February 1959, for furnishing one (1) 750 G.P.M. Class "A" Triple Combination Pumping Engine with 500 gallon booster tank, hose body and other equipment, all of which is described in the specifications entitled "INFORMATION AND SPECIFICATIONS ON FIRE APPARATUS" a copy of which can be obtained at the Recorder's office. Bids shall contain all information in the specifications and shall comply with the specifications in regards to any alternates.

The City of Estacada reserves the right to postpone the awarding of the bid for a reasonable time or to reject any and all bids and to waive minor informalities.

Published for the first time December 19th, 1958 and published for the second time December 26, 1958.

R. R. Cooke, Recorder.

CALL FOR BIDS

School District No. 108 will accept bids for Gasoline and fuel oil requirements for the ensuing year until 8:00 P.M. January 14, 1959. Sealed bids may be left at the Estacada Grade School Office or mailed to P. O. Box 518, Estacada, Oregon.

Publsh Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

Mrs. Cecil Harbert drove to Eugene last Thursday to bring Anne home from U. of O. for the holidays. Judy Grim, who is now living in Eugene came with them and is visiting at the Geo. Beisell home.

Mr. and Mrs. Denzil White and children of Fossil, Oregon visited at the Ralph Ahnert home from Saturday until Monday morning.

Carl Ahnert, who also lives at Fossil, is home with his parents for the holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ahnert and family of Seattle will arrive on Wednesday for several days visit.

DELINQUENT SUBSCRIBERS

CUT FROM NEWS LIST
All delinquent subscribers have been terminated as of this week.

Merry Christmas 1958



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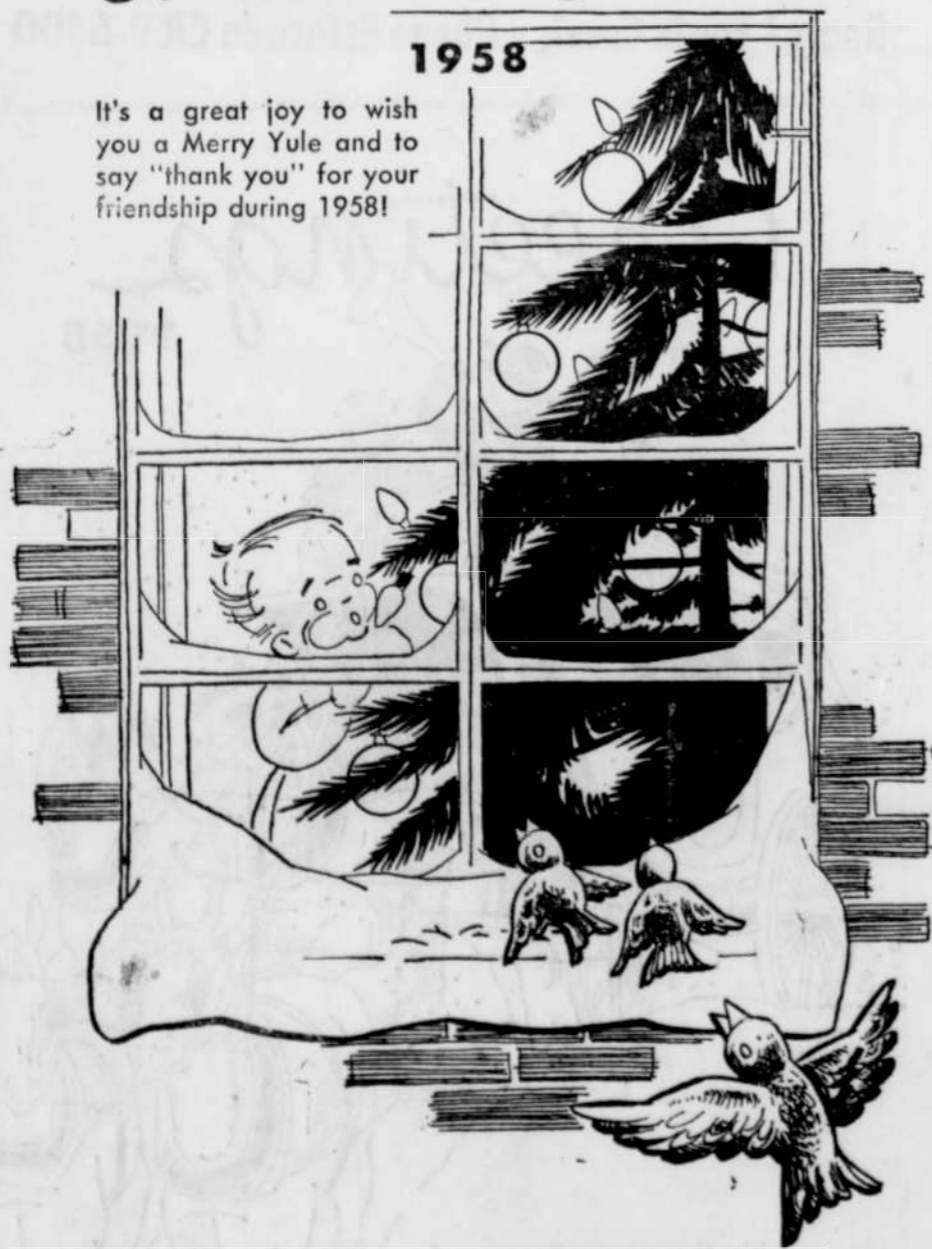
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