

GREAT PROMISE IN SUNFLOWERS

SUCCESS IS FOUND IN MANY STATES

Growing is favorable in Regions
Where Climate Too Cool for
Corn, As is Case in Central Oregon.

By George R. Hyslop.

Sunflowers, as a weed did much to make Kansas famous and many a Sunflower state farmer is skeptical of them in their astonishing new role—silage. They may be the means of adding to Central Oregon's fame as a stock country and indeed, they have already made an excellent start in that direction.

Sunflowers make good silage. In some sections they make the best silage. Now do not mistake this to mean that they are better than good corn or pea and oat silage because they are not. But where these crops are unsuited or where the yield is too low, sunflowers are unquestionably best.

Canada has siloed sunflowers for years and has usually put the heads in a mixture of corn and other plants. Some whole sunflowers were also used in this way with success.

The real progress in sunflower silage came from Montana. Forced to grow something drought resistant and frost resistant they tried them with great success. They have been the means of carrying stock in good shape which otherwise would have starved, and too this has been done economically.

Sunflower silage, as far as I can learn, first came into prominence in Oregon, about three years ago on a farm near Elgin. Paul Spillman of Union county and other county agents and Oregon Agricultural College representatives began studying sunflowers and organizing demonstrations.

Last year sunflower silage was a success in Union, Wallowa, Umatilla, Wasco, Deschutes, Klamath, Benton, Tillamook, Clatsop and possibly some other counties. Sunflowers for silage will be pretty common in Oregon this year. One seed company alone, stocked up with a good many tons of the seed and some county organizations are purchasing seed in several ton lots.

Where should sunflowers be grown? It may almost be answered by saying where corn cannot be produced.

Sunflowers do well in irrigated and dry sections where the growing season is too cool for corn. They stand more frost than corn and are better in the high altitudes. They also do better on the heavy, cold or poorly drained soils.

In high irrigated sections, peas and oats also make excellent silage, and in some localities where a legume is needed for soil enrichment, they are considered better than sunflowers. Under such conditions however sunflowers are practically alone in the field as an intertilled silage crop.

Sunflowers are usually planted in rows three to three and a half feet apart under irrigated conditions and are spaced in the row at from eight to fourteen inches. Under dry farming practice, the rows are three and a half to four feet apart and plants should be eighteen inches to two feet apart.

From four to eight pounds of good seed are needed an acre although many use more seed.

The Mammoth and Black Russian varieties are usually recommended.

Sunflower seed is often low in germination and the time of planting depends much on its ability to sprout. The O. A. C. Seed Laboratory made a number of tests in 1919 and most of them ran very low. Seed quality as indicated by the test in 1920 is better although one fair looking sample made a test of exactly zero. Some seed!

Sunflowers must be cultivated at two or three inches deep and often enough to keep weeds down and a loose mulch on the soil's surface. Think of it, cultivating sunflowers when we used to be concerned only with cultivating them out.

The Oregon Experiment Station is assembling information on the subject and is trying out sunflowers and other silage plants in its ten farm and experimental silos.

Like the siloing of corn in the early days, there is still much to learn about sunflower silage. Just as the lack of an early maturing corn made many dissatisfied with corn silage until the college introduced Minnesota Number Thirteen, so

some are due to be highly elated over high yield of rank late sunflowers and disappointed on quality and results until early and heavy yielders are developed. That is the kind of sunflowers that makes a rich nutritious silage.

An analysis of some common sunflower silage made this spring by the experiment station chemist showed it about equal to corn silage made of corn stalks with ears removed. Better sunflowers will make better silage.

Sunflowers well filled with plump heavy seeds in the hard dough stage make the best silage. They are cut like corn and unlike corn are put through the silage cutter head first. Water is needed usually to make them keep well and thorough tramping especially around the silo sides is exceedingly necessary.

Sunflower silage has a fine sour odor, and acid flavor, though somewhat oilier in taste than corn silage.

I believe every sunflower farmer should select out enough early vigorous plants, each carrying a large well filled head, protect them from birds, and in this way supply himself with strong healthy acclimated seed. When ripe the sunflower heads should be cut, dried, and threshed.

Threshing may be done by holding the face of the sunflower head against the face of a spiked wooden wheel operated like a grindstone except that the wheel runs outside rather than inside the frame.

The threshed seed should be stored in dry well ventilated mouse proof storage.

With a little work in plant and seed selection and additional experience in making and feeding the silage, the college believes sunflowers will do much to solve some phase of the Eastern Oregon feed problem.

PUPILS' WORK SEEN BY MANY

CREDITABLE EXHIBIT AT KENWOOD SCHOOL SHOWS RESULTS OF ENDEAVOR AT HOME AND IN CLASS ROOMS.

Teachers at the Kenwood school report a large attendance of parents who visited the assembly hall Friday afternoon to inspect the exhibition of work turned out by the children at school and at home. Specimens of drawing both in colors and charcoal, writing showing the results of training in the Palmer method, and cut paper work from the lower grades, were shown, while a special display was made of highly creditable crocheting by girls in the grades.

WILL INVESTIGATE COMMISSION PLAN

Community Clearing House League to Ascertain Results Attained in Other Cities.

Before taking final action in the matter of recommending the commission form of government for Bend, suggested in a resolution recently introduced by the delegate from the Central Labor Council, the Community Clearing House League will make a thorough investigation of the result of the commission plan in other cities. It was decided on Friday at the regular meeting of the league. The secretary was instructed to communicate with towns which have adopted this form of government, with the purpose of securing information on this point. In the matter of the fair price investigation, advocated at a previous meeting, the appointment of a committee to act with the representatives of the Merchants' Association to make a price survey, was authorized.

RECORD MADE BY CARRIER PIGEON

Bird, Only Two Months Old, Flies Distance of 20 Miles in Two Hours.

The early development of carrier pigeons kept for message work on the Deschutes National Forest, is shown in a flight just made by a two month's old bird which is being trained by William Sproat of the forest service. The young homer was taken a distance of 20 miles from Bend, and made its way back to its home in a few minutes more than two hours. The flight is regarded by Mr. Sproat as exceptional.

OUTLINES PLAN FOR BUILDING

BEND SCHOOL NEEDS ARE FORESEEN

Completion of Present High and Construction of New Building Features of Superintendent's Program.

A comprehensive program of school construction for Bend to extend well into the future, was outlined last night at the regular meeting of the directors of the district by City Superintendent S. W. Moore, as a part of his regular report. According to his suggestion, the main part of the high school building should be completed and the central heating plant installed this year, the west wing of the building should be added in 1921, and at a future date the entire structure should be turned over to the grades, another high school building to be put up in another part of the city. As far as the program affects the present year, it has been adopted as the policy of the board.

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PORTABLE CAMP TO AID FIRE FIGHTERS

A portable fire fighting camp is one of the improvements which the Deschutes National Forest will have this year, it was stated by Supervisor N. G. Jacobson, following the arrival of a one ton G. M. C. truck, equipped with a two ton engine, which was driven from Portland by K. P. Ceil, of the district forester's office in Portland. The truck is one of those turned over for forest use by the aviation service.

When not needed for fire fighting, the truck will become a movable road building camp.

KNICKERBOCKER IS SEEKER FOR OFFICE

M. W. Knickerbocker, rancher in the Sisters country, has definitely entered the race as a candidate for the democratic nomination for county commissioner. Mr. Knickerbocker, by the way is the only man to seek the democratic nomination for the position, although several republicans are already in the running.

Mr. Knickerbocker is one of the older settlers on the irrigated lands tributary to Bend. Formerly a farmer in the Cloverdale district, he sold his holdings, and removed to the Willamette Valley for a short time last year. He soon returned to Central Oregon, however, and is taking an especial interest in the raising of purebred livestock.

Put it in The Bulletin.

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PIONEER STORE TO DISPOSE OF STOCK

Business of J. S. Bogue at La Pine Offered for Sale After Life of 20 Years—Owners Remain.

After 20 years of successful merchandising in the La Pine country,

the pioneer store of J. S. Bogue is about to go out of business. The stock of goods has been offered for sale and the business will be closed out. Located first at Rosland, the old stage station two miles this side of La Pine, the business was moved to its present location when the new townsite was started. The owners expect to remain in the La Pine section.



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