

FARM NEWS

From Your County Agent

Some Vegetable Seeds Good for Five Years

Don't throw away all of those vegetable seeds that were left over from planting the garden this spring. Some of the seeds will be suitable for next spring, providing a little care is exercised in their storage this winter.

The length of life of the seeds depends on two things—the kind of seed and the conditions under which the seeds have been stored. Seeds vary greatly in their length of life. Spinach, onion, parsnip, and parsley keep their vitality for only one or two years; sweetcorn, lettuce, beets, carrots, beans, peas and satisfy for two or three years; cabbage, kale, broccoli, cauliflower radish, turnip and mustard four or five years; and cucumbers, melons, squash and tomatoes about five years. All of these times assume that the seeds have been stored under favorable conditions—a cool temperature and fairly low humidity. Seeds do not keep their vitality as long in hot, humid summer weather as they do in cooler, drier times of the year. Ordinarily, it is best to buy seeds fresh each year, but if seeds are held over until the following year, by all means make a germination test before planting them.

Determine Supply for Future Irrigation Now

Now is a good time to get some late measurements of water if you are contemplating future irrigation from a creek. Small streams should be measured several times during the growing season in order to determine the amount of water that might be available for irrigation. The most economical irrigation systems that use pumps are those that can be used on a continuous basis during the irrigating season. This particularly applies to sprinkler systems.

Stream flows vary from year to year and crops vary in their water requirement. Grain and hay crops need irrigation early; row crops need water during the months of June, July and August. Pastures require water from early Spring until late fall in order to obtain maximum production.

A continuous stream flow of 7 gallons per minute should be allowed for each acre of pasture. Row crops should have an allowance of 10 gallons per acre.

The simplest way to measure small stream flow is by the weir. A weir is a bulkhead placed across a stream so that all of the water in the stream flows through a notch. More details on measuring water flow in small streams can

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By Winsor

be found in Extension Circular 550 "Measuring Flow in Small Streams" by Marvin Shearer. A copy may be obtained from the County Extension Office.

Prune Raspberries in Fall and Spring

Red raspberries should be pruned in the fall and again the following spring. The fall pruning consists primarily of removing the canes that have produced fruit and cutting out the weak new canes. Canes removed in the fall will lessen the chances of disease being spread to the new canes. The raspberry root borer enters the plant crown through old canes that have not been cut off at a ground level.

Spring pruning is done in February or early March after danger of severe freezing is passed. In the spring when the canes begin to leaf at the tips, it is time to do the pruning. The height at which the canes are cut off will be determined by the size of the cane and the height of the wire supports. Cane tip removal strengthens the cane and allows it to remain in a vertical position while bearing the fruit.

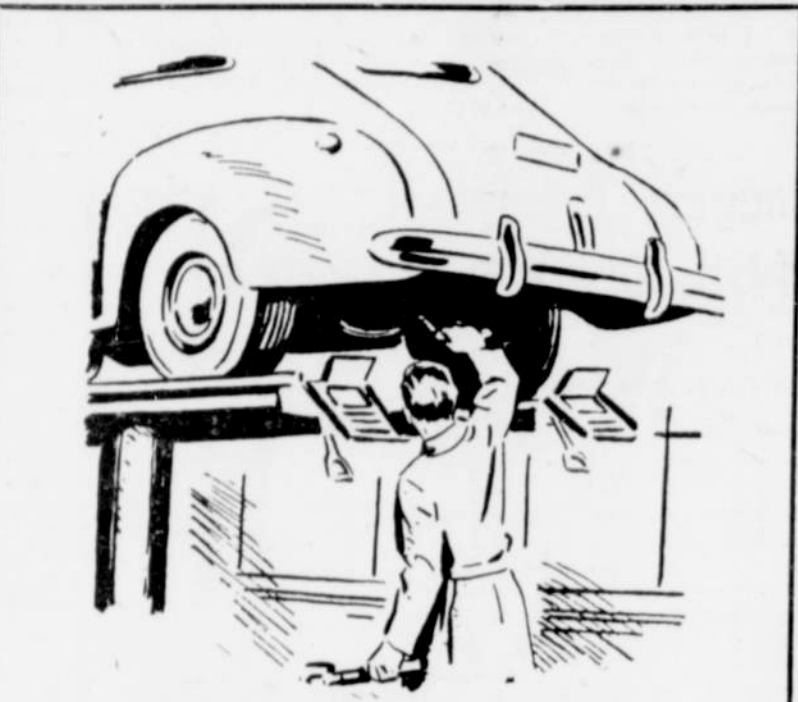
Tall growing varieties, like Cuthbert, should be cut back to 5 1/2 or 6 feet. Low growing varieties like Newburgh can be cut as low as 4 feet. Cutting back the canes will reduce the crop, but if properly done, the harvesting will be easier.

Canes may be left long or at their full length if the ends are fastened to a wire support 4 to 4 1/2 feet above the ground. Old canes may be broken up and left in the patch to decay if they are not diseased. Diseased wood should be removed from the patch and burned.

Mulches of straw, leaves, grass clippings and shavings may be used to a good advantage in the small patch of berries.

Manures applied in the fall will be very beneficial by spring. If the manure contains considerable shaving or straw, it will also act

as a partial mulch. Fall is a good time to plant out new berries. Usually the planting is delayed until spring.



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