

TUALATIN VALLEY FARM NEWS

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE — Friday, June 10, 1949

Pea Fields Show Control Need In Weevil Threats

Most fields of Austrian peas in the county are in bloom and the time to apply insecticides for weevil control is at hand, says Joe Cox, Washington County Extension Agent. Proper timing of insecticides is important. The insecticides are applied to kill the adult weevils before the eggs are laid. Once the eggs are laid on the pods, it is too late to prevent weevily peas, says Cox.

Either a 1/2 percent rotenone dust or a 5 percent DDT dust is recommended. The choice of insecticides will depend upon what is to be done with the pea vines. The use of DDT is not recommended where pea silage or pea hay is to be fed to dairy cattle or livestock being finished for slaughter.

Apply the .75 percent rotenone dust at the rate of 25 pounds per acre. The dust should be applied when the temperature within the next 24 hours will reach at least 65 degrees F. Dusts should not be applied under windy conditions.

5 per cent DDT dust should be used at the rate of 15 to 20 pounds per acre and should be applied under the same conditions as advised for rotenone.

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FARM QUESTION BOX

by **ED W. MITCHELL**

Farm Advisor
General Electric Station WG7



- Q. Can formaldehyde be used as a soil fumigant to prevent "damping off"? What is the correct method to use it and in what quantity?
- A. Yes, and if it is used properly it usually does a pretty good job. Use three table-spoonsful of forty per cent commercial formaldehyde in about two gallons of water, to moisten one bushel of soil. Shovel over till all is evenly dampened and cover as nearly airtight as is practical for three or four days. Then shovel over two or three times, and aerate three or four days before planting. An additional precaution is to dust the surface just as seedlings break through; use about 1/2 ounce of zinc oxide dust per square foot of flat or bed.
- Q. What chemicals should be used to have various colored lighting in a fireplace?
- A. The five and ten cent stores, department stores and drug stores often carry powders for such use. They use copper sulphate for blue, barium chloride for green, chromium for yellow, etc.
- Q. I would like detailed information on starting plants in a cellar under artificial light.
- A. Have a room you can keep fairly warm; build benches and lay heating cable in them either on or in the soil, and hang 500 watt Mazda lamps, five feet apart, over the benches. Have these on cords so they may be raised as plants grow. Cable should be controlled by thermostat and lights by thermostat or hand switch.
- Q. My chicken coop has been disinfected with DDT and has six inches of old litter which I am told is better when built up with

new litter than all new litter. Is this right?

A. DDT is no good as a disinfectant and old litter is sure to have disease germs in it. Clean, scrape and scrub with strong lye solution with a little carbolic acid added and use only clean, fresh litter.

Q. How quickly do dwarf apple trees come into bearing? How long lived are they? About how many apples would a dwarf tree produce? Are they practical for a small orchard on a four-acre place?

A. Just the thing for a home fruit garden. They usually start to bear at two or three years of age, bear perhaps six apples the first year and then on up to several bushels (about five) as they get older. They should live as long as any other kind of apple tree.

Q. The potatoes we raised last year looked fine outside, but have a small rotten spot in the center. What is it, and how avoided?

A. I think that is what we call "hollow heart," and is attributed to alternate wet and dry spells. The remedy is to have lots of humus in the soil to hold water, or to irrigate.

Q. Can I put roofing paper over old shingles on the barn? Will paper look smooth or will there be grooves?

A. You can do it but you will be sorry. It is a waste of time and money to lay any kind of roofing material until you have a clean, firm surface to lay it on. It would be better to lay shingles over shingles rather than to attempt to cover an old shingle roof with any other type of roof.

County Growers Of Hops Vote On Market Proposal

Hop growers in Washington county will vote, by printed ballot, on a proposed federal marketing agreement and order program, between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and producers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California.

W. J. Broadhead, field representative in Portland for the Fruit and Vegetable Branch of the USDA's Production and Marketing Administration, said June 18 is the deadline for returning the ballots, which are detachable from the printed brochure setting forth the proposed amendments and instructions for voting.

Approximately 1,450 hop growers in the four states will receive the ballots by mail, Broadhead said. Extra copies are available in the offices of county agricultural conservation associations and county agents of the Agricultural Extension Service.

The USDA last week announced its approval of the proposed marketing pact, which would make possible surplus control by requiring that hops in excess of

Gov't. Seeks Info On Wheat Areas Of Recent Years

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has requested the County Agricultural Conservation Office to gather information on the wheat acreage on Washington county farms for the past few years. This is in anticipation of probable wheat allotments on the 1950 wheat crop.

Local Community committeemen have been contacting wheat growers in the county the past few weeks.

Anyone who has not been contacted by their committeeman but who has been raising wheat or intends to raise wheat in 1950 should come to the County Agricultural Conservation Office located in Hillsboro right away and make out a wheat acreage report.

estimated domestic and export requirements be withheld from the market. To become effective, the proposed order must be approved by at least two-thirds of the growers voting, or by the growers of at least two-thirds of the volume of production represented. Handlers are being sent an identical marketing agreement for their concurrence.

Hop producing counties in the four-state area are:

California — Lake, Mendocino, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, Yuba.

Idaho — Canyon, Twin Falls.

Oregon — Benton, Clackamas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Polk, Umatilla, Washington, Yamhill.

Washington — Benton, Lewis, Pierce, Spokane, Yakima.

Survey Shows 1 Of 5 Ore. Farms Made No Profit

While four out of five Oregon farms covered in a farm management survey made a profit last year, the other fifth failed to show any return for the labor and management of the operators. Average return was \$4500.

These findings were recently announced by E. A. Hyer and M. H. Becker, members of the OSC experiment station staff in farm management, who gathered information on 81 farms, all of which, in 1948, had some acreage devoted to grass seed and pasture crops.

Among the farms surveyed were operations which showed a capital investment range from \$23,000 to \$265,000. The 81 farms averaged a capital investment of \$75,000 at 1948 price levels and required the services of two full-time workers to handle an average of 443 acres, 230 acres of which were in crops.

Hyer and Becker explain that labor income is money returned to the owner or farm operator for his own labor and management. Range of labor income varied from a low of minus \$7,500 to a high of \$27,000 in the farms studied. The average was \$4500.

Farms included in the survey were either devoted to the production of seed and grain, dairy products or were general farms, the farm management staff members state.

Average fertilizer purchase last year for the farms studied was \$739, showing a big increase over pre-war figures when the average annual fertilizer purchase was less than \$100.

Operators surveyed placed an average of \$250 per month or \$3,000 per year as the value of their own labor and management. Hyer and Becker point out that 5.9 percent was the farmer's average return on investment. This figure does not include value of home-raised products for the table.

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Codling Moths In Egg-Laying Stage; DDT Complicates

Codling moths have begun to emerge and are laying eggs, according to word received in the county extension office, reports Joe Cox, County Ext. Agent. Eggs that are already laid will be hatched by June 7 and it is important that all apples and pears be sprayed at this time, says Cox.

The recommended spray is powdered lead arsenate used at the rate of three pounds to 100 gallons of water. In orchards where codling moth is not a serious problem, two pounds of powdered lead arsenate to 100 gallons of water is sufficient to give control.

Calcium arsenate, used at the rate of three pounds powdered calcium arsenate to 100 gallons of water, has been used successfully in the Willamette Valley for codling moth control. Tests carried on by the Entomology Department of the Oregon Experiment Station over a period of many years indicate that under Willamette Valley conditions calcium arsenate is only slightly less effective than lead arsenate in codling moth control.

Thoroughness of application is essential in codling moth control. The foliage, as well as the entire surface of every apple and pear, should be thoroughly covered with the spray solution if worm injury is to be prevented. Special care should be taken in spraying the upper portion of the tree, as more than half of the codling moth eggs are laid in the upper third of the trees.

Experiments conducted during the past few years have established the outstanding effectiveness of DDT for codling moth control. Results have shown that the seasonal use of DDT for this purpose may, however, cause one or more of the following complications.

1. It may increase the population of several species of mites with consequent severe injury.
2. It may increase the population of the woolly apple aphid which in turn may increase damage from perennial canker.
3. It may create a new pest control problem with insects which now are of little or no economic importance.

For those orchardists who propose to substitute DDT for lead arsenate in codling moth control during the 1949 season, the following is suggested:

Two or three applications of DDT should be made during the season. The first application, 2 pounds of 50% wettable DDT, should be made now.

Production of milk for human consumption is one of the oldest farm enterprises. Yet today—because of modern scientific research and invention—it is one of the newest and biggest of all agricultural activities with some 27 million dairy cows in the nation.

One of the objectives of the National 4-H Dairy Production program is the building of a successful dairy herd from an original investment in a 4-H Club calf. Guided by county agents and local 4-H Club leaders, more than 1,700 Oregon boys and girls are participating in the "learn by doing" 1949 project. They acquire know-how to grow fine pastures, build healthy herds and produce good, clean, wholesome milk.

Not content to stop there, these future dairymen pass along their knowledge to the community by demonstrating at clubs and meetings procedures such as "Dairy Cattle Management," "Care and Handling of Milk" and "Dairy Problems on the Farm."