

**YOUR COUNTY AGENT:**

**Strawberry Varieties Discussed**

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This tricky weather we have been having has kept most of our heavier soils in a condition where we cannot plant. However, some of our lighter soils can be worked up and planted.

One of the things which should be receiving attention now is strawberries. Our growers used to produce mainly the marshall or new Oregon variety, but a virus disease came along and made it impractical to grow it any longer. For the last ten years we haven't had a really good commercial variety of strawberry. A few years ago the Washington experiment station brought out the northwest variety. This northwest is resistant to the disease which ruined the marshall. It is a very productive, high quality berry that can be used either fresh or preserved. Some of the new varieties that have been tried look pretty good, but the eating quality just isn't there. With the northwest we have a good looking berry, as well as one which has excellent dessert qualities. Anyone interested in planting strawberries, either commercially or in home gardens, should by all means look into the northwest and plant at least a few plants for trial and comparison.

**Root Rot Danger**  
The one weak point of the northwest is its susceptibility to root rots. Many strawberry varieties that might otherwise be good are worthless in this location because of root rots. The northwest is supposed to be susceptible, but so far we have not had much root rot trouble show up. This is very encouraging. However, we shouldn't become careless, and in setting out a new patch be sure to set it on ground that has not previously been in strawberries.

Another thing that causes a

lot of grief in strawberry patches is the use of manure either before or after planting. In most areas manure is beneficial on strawberries, but locally where it has been used the plants have developed a lot of root trouble. The only safe way to use manure is to apply it a year ahead of time, work it into the soil and grow a crop, and then when you plant the strawberries the manure will have been well rotted but there will still be considerable fertility left.

**Single Crop Variety**  
The northwest is a single crop variety, and plants set this spring will not produce until the spring of 1953. This is objected to by many gardeners as they feel they have strawberries for too short a period. However, when an abundance of strawberries can be enjoyed for about a month, we lose our appetites for berries to a certain extent, so if we freeze and preserve a little surplus we can very nicely get through the remainder of the year.

The everbearers do have the advantage of bearing over a long period of time. However, there is no really good quality everbearing variety. Most of the ones that are available are rather tart in flavor. The rockhill is an exception to this but it is too difficult to grow, and most growers who have attempted it have given it up. It is difficult to grow mainly because of its susceptibility to the root rots that I mentioned as attacking our other varieties.

**Reddish Leaf Sign**  
Plants affected with root rots generally grow pretty well in the spring, but as soon as the weather turns hot their growth slows up and a little later in the summer there will be several leaves on each plant which will turn a reddish bronze color. This color is more or less a result of sunburn which occurs because the roots are unable to take up enough moisture for the leaves to evaporate and keep cool. Anytime a plant has reddish leaves you can be suspicious of root rots. A definite diagnosis cannot be made without pulling up the plant. When this is done, the roots instead of being nice and white will have reddish to black blotches on them, and in severe cases the entire root system appears discolored. These root rots live in the soil and are also carried in the planting stock. Anytime new plants are bought be sure that they have nice bright root systems, and then plant them in clean soil where no strawberries have been grown in recent years. If you do want the everbearer, the gem is probably the most satisfactory all around variety.

**Fertilizer Types**  
Fertilizer tests on strawberries have given variable results, but it is generally conceded that the best results will come by applying the fertilizer before setting the plant. The two materials which have shown benefit on strawberries are nitrogen and phosphorous. These can be supplied by applying ammonium sulphate and superphosphate separately or by purchasing a ready-mixed complete fertilizer. The complete fertilizer would be the simplest to use and it could

**Spring Sports Begin at SOC**

Spring sports practice begins in earnest this week at Southern Oregon college with four branches of the athletic department scheduling practice sessions.

The Red Raider baseball team held its first outdoor drill between showers Monday afternoon under the tutelage of Coach Ted Schopf. The squad has been working out in memorial court for several weeks in anticipation of the season opener on April 1. The full team strength, Schopf said, will not be known for several days when all candidates have been screened.

**Spring Football Set**  
The tennis and track teams reported for organization sessions yesterday afternoon. And Bill Abbey announced that a limited spring football drill will begin April 1 as the squad points to the fall program.

Following final examinations later this week, the spring sports program will resume play on March 24.

The preliminary baseball schedule, all double-headers, will be as follows: April 1, Oregon Technical institute at Ashland; April 15, OTI at Klamath Falls; April 19, Humboldt State college at Arcata; April 28, Chico State college at Ashland; May 3, Cal Aggies at Ashland; May 10, Humboldt State college at Ashland, and May 16, Chico State college at Chico.

**17 SCHOOLS ENTER**

**'B' Tourney Begins Today**

Seventeen high schools will participate in the 22d annual invitational "B" basketball tournament beginning today at Southern Oregon college.

At least 200 prep school players, their coaches and fans are expected in Ashland today for the opening, according to Daniel Bulkley, tourney director.

**Double Elimination**  
Play will continue through Saturday evening when the finals will be held. The tournament is a modified double elimination contest with the four top ranking clubs eligible for awards. As in past seasons, the outstanding player in the tournament will receive special commendation.

To speed up tourney play and relieve congestion at memorial court, arrangements have been made to play six games at the Ashland Junior high gym, Bulkley reported. Two matches have been scheduled there today and an additional four on Friday.

Schools entered in the tournament include Canyonville, McKenzie, Coburg, Elkton, Talent, St. Mary's of Medford, Prospect, Coos River, Bandon, Port Orford, Oakland, Jacksonville, Butte Falls, Paisley, Lorane and Mohawk.



**BOWLING**

**Majorette League**  
Bosshard Lumber Co. 21 15  
Steak House 18 18  
Lithia Nursery 17 19  
Trites Coffee Co. 16 20  
The Steak House went into second place by taking 3 from Bosshard Lumber company, and Trites Coffee company took 3 from Lithia Nursery.

Lucille Williamson rolled high game of 197 and Edith Stockstill had high series of 517.

**Keglerette League**  
Omars 20 16  
Newbry's Orchards 20 16  
Bob's Lunch 18 18  
Park View 14 22  
Newbry's Orchards won 3 from Park View to gain a tie for first place, and Bob's Lunch took 4 from Omars.

Jo Mellick rolled high game of 189, and Eileen Eaton had high series of 479.

**American League**  
Mistletoe Lumber Co. 28 12  
Phil Bryant's Service 24 16  
Wiley-Reinholdt 19 21  
Linings 9 31  
Mistletoe Lumber Co. won 3 from Linings Sand and Gravel, and Phil Bryant's Service took 3 from Wiley-Reinholdt.

Bob Rametes rolled high game of 233, and Jack Eaton had high series of 577.

**Elks League**  
Yanks 27 13  
Sox 27 13  
Dem Bums 17 23  
Browns 9 31  
The Sox gained a tie for first place by taking 4 from Dem Bums, and the Yanks won 3 from the Browns.

Rusty Winn rolled high game of 220, and Harvey Bergstrom had high series of 588.

**Classic League**  
Caton's Garage 27 13  
Tiny's Body Shop 23 17  
Royal Crown 21 19  
Marshall-Wells 9 31  
Caton's Garage increased their lead by taking 3 from Marshall-Wells, and Tiny's Body Shop and Royal Crown split 2 and 2.

Jack Eaton rolled high game of 234 and George Sikes had high series of 17.

**Major League**  
Peter's Union 76 28 12  
O'Bleness Motors 23 17  
Selby's Chevrolet 17 23  
Oak St. Tankers 12 28  
Peter's Union 76 won 3 from O'Bleness Motors to increase their lead, and Oak St. Tankers took Selby's Chevrolet 3.

Frank Laws rolled high game of 531 and Les Myers had high series of 531.

**AS WEATHER GROWS**

**Grizzlies Bare for Spring Sports**

Weather hampered opening drill in spring sports at Ashland high school this week but limited activity was underway as the aspirants prepared for opening competition.

Gene Allison's Ashland baseball crew has an opening district A-2 contest with Crater high on April 8 but Allison indicated that practice games with Talent and Prospect may be scheduled before that date.

**Veteran Crew**  
Allison has a veteran crew back from last year including his brother battery of Ted and Vern Tenney.

Meanwhile, Mel Johnson has taken over the reigns of the Grizzly track squad, replacing Frank O'Neil in the top position. O'Neil moved to Roosevelt high school in Portland last fall.

Johnson will get his first chance to judge his 1952 squad's strength on March 20 when the Grizzlies journey to Medford for a short distance dual meet. The same two rivals will meet in a regulation dual meet on April 23.

**Tennis — Major Sport**

Charley Jandreau is in charge of the tennis squad and increased interest is anticipated in this sport, which was voted into the "major sport" field by the student body last year. A full tennis schedule has not yet been announced but individual matches will be scheduled with Grants Pass, Klamath Falls and Medford and the Southern Oregon conference tennis meet will be at Klamath Falls on May 9.

The baseball and track schedules announced this week include:

**Baseball:**  
April 8—Crater, there  
April 11—Eagle Point, there  
April 15—Rogue River, here  
April 22—Illinois Valley, there  
April 29—Rogue River, there  
May 2—Illinois Valley, here

May 6—Eagle Point, here  
May 9—Crater, here  
**Track:**  
March 20—Medford, there  
March 28—Grants Pass, there  
April 5—Crater, Klamath Falls and Ashland at Klamath Falls  
April 12—Rogue Relays at Medford  
April 18-19—Hayward Relays at Eugene  
April 23—Medford, there  
May 3—Grants Pass (here), Lions' sponsored meet at Klamath Falls  
May 10—District meet at Corvallis  
May 16-17—State meet at Corvallis  
May 24—Portland versus Southern Oregon All-Stars at Portland.



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**SEED CROPS REVIEW**

**Supply Shortage Ups Prices**

Shorter supplies of some seed crops resulted in higher retail prices on February 15 than a year ago, according to the weekly seed and specialty crops review prepared by the OSC extension service from USDA reports and other data.

**ALFALFA AND ALSIKE CLOVER SEED SELL ABOVE PARITY AT MID-FEBRUARY:**  
Prices received by farmers, nationally and in Oregon, for alfalfa and alsike clover seed were above the national parity value at mid-February. Red clover seed prices were well below parity at that time.

The national average price received by farmers for alfalfa seed was a little higher on February 15 than a month earlier.

be applied at a rate of 8 pounds to each 10 foot by 10 foot square. If this amount of fertilizer is applied before planting, then it should not be necessary to fertilize the plant again during its life.

Most patches are good for a period of about three years. After that length of time it would be best to plow the patch up and start a new one. As it takes a year to bring a one crop berry into production, a new planting should be set in the spring before the old patch is dug up. Then as soon as the old patch produces its crop in May it could be discarded so that the following year the new patch would have berries and you wouldn't have one season without any strawberries.

Oregon farmers received an average price on February 15 of \$48.33 a hundred pounds or \$2.50 less than at mid-January.

Alsike clover seed prices paid to farmers remained unchanged at mid-February from a month earlier. The average price paid Oregon farmers for alsike clover seed was \$40 a hundred pounds on February 15 and a little over \$38 for the country as a whole.

Farmers in the United States received an average price of \$33.16 a hundred pounds for red clover seed at mid-February. This price was up slightly from mid-January. The Oregon average price of \$33.33 remained unchanged from a month earlier.

The effective national parity price for February 15 was \$42.16 a hundred pounds for alfalfa seed; \$36 for alsike clover seed; and \$41.83 for red clover seed. These parity prices were slightly higher than for mid-January.

**MANY IMPORTANT FIELD SEEDS RETAIL HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO:** Early season retail prices in the United States of important field seeds averaged higher on February 15 than a year ago. Smaller supplies accounted in part for the increased retail price of red clover, lespedeza, common ryegrass, bromegrass and crested wheatgrass. Larger supplies accounted for a decline at mid-February from a year ago in the national average retail price of ladino and white clover, orchard grass, and sudan grass seed. Other important seeds that retailed at higher prices on February 15 than a year ago were alsike clover and alfalfa.



**MONUMENTS AND MARKERS**  
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"On the Plaza"

**NOTICE TO RESIDENTS SOUTH OF ASHLAND**

THE CALIFORNIA OREGON POWER COMPANY ANNOUNCES THAT ELECTRIC SERVICE TO ITS CUSTOMERS IN THE AREA FROM THE CITY SOUTH TO SISKIYOU SUMMIT WILL BE OFF FROM 1:00 A.M. UNTIL ABOUT 4:00 A.M. ON THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH. NEW EQUIPMENT WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE ASHLAND SUBSTATION.

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