

Extension service news

With the forecast of drought conditions facing most of us in the months ahead, many home gardeners are asking how can they maintain their home grounds during restricted watering periods. Several water conserving methods can be used, according to Mike Howell, Morrow County Extension Agent.

In very restricted water situations, priorities should be established regarding which plants will be irrigated. The most effective time to apply irrigation water to minimize evaporative losses and plant diseases is very early morning, preferably before sunrise. Sprinkler irrigation of ornamental plantings should not be practiced. As much as 25 per cent of the water may be lost due to evaporation in the air prior to reaching the ground surface. Subirrigation is the most conservative way to water.

A soaker hose with the discharge holes turned downward on the soil surface will also minimize evaporative water losses. "Drip," "trickle," and other "micro-source" methods of irrigation can reduce water loss requirements by as much as 50 per cent compared to overhead sprinkler irrigation.

A question that is frequently asked is, "Can I use waste water even if it contains detergents and soaps, to irrigate my ornamentals and vegetable garden?" The answer is...yes, you can use such water if you're willing to take a few simple precautions:

1. Don't irrigate with water that contains Borax.
2. When using water containing soap or detergents, periodically rake the soil lightly around the roots; this prevents formation of a crust that could seal out oxygen. A pailful of water—3 to 4 gallons—about once a week around a plant that is 6 to 8 feet tall can keep such a plant alive through a drought. Waste water from your laundry can be used; an automatic washer uses 27-40 gallons of water. Bath water contains little soap. You may bail a few gallons out of the tub or put a pail at your feet when taking a shower.

Mulches will reduce soil temperature, decrease surface moisture evaporation and decrease weed competition. Tests show that merely shading the bare soil will reduce evaporation by as much as 30 per cent. Mulching materials may be classified as plastic film mulches, or organic mulches such as lawn clippings, leaves, sawdust, bark chips and pine needles.

In drought conditions, don't apply concentrated fertilizers. Fertilization stimulates excessive, new, lush growth and increases the plant's demands for water. Heavy pruning should also be avoided in drought conditions. Do only corrective pruning.

Lawns shouldn't be irrigated with detergent-soap waste water. It's natural for Kentucky Bluegrass, red fescue lawn to go dormant in hot dry weather. Most of these lawns will make a natural recovery with the return of cool, wet weather. If you are permitted to irrigate your lawn, do a thorough job once a week. Irrigate so the soil is wet 6 inches deep. Avoid daily, light sprinkling; this can damage your lawn. Mow the lawn only when necessary at a cutting height of 2 inches or more. Keep off the grass as much as possible. The ideal time to irrigate your lawn would be early morning (before sunrise).

Additional information on maintaining lawns and gardens during drought periods is available at the Morrow County Extension office.

All kids look forward to summer, but two Morrow County 4-H members are more anxious than most...and with good reason! Tim Jones, Lexington, and Debbie Paustian, Heppner, have recently received notice that they are among the thirteen Oregon 4-H members chosen to travel to Japan on the Oregon 4-H—Japan Labo exchange program.

Tim, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Jones, hopes to spend his time in the home of Yuichi Harada, the student who visited the Jones' home last year. Debbie and her parents are hoping that she will be assigned to visit her former guest, Miki Murai.

Both young people will travel to Japan the latter part of June or early July, and will spend a month living with host families, learning the Japanese culture. While there they also have the opportunity to attend a Labo camp, and visit various sites of interest. Prior to their departure, they will attend orientation meetings to meet other members of the group, and chaperones.

The Oregon 4-H, Japan Labo exchange program is an ongoing exchange with students traveling each year between Japan and various states. Morrow County has participated each year the program has been available to local 4-H members, both as host country and by sending exchange students. Last year nine Japanese students came to Morrow County and one traveled to Japan.

EXTENSION HOMEMAKER'S PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Any homemaker with a special program idea or a request for a workshop, correspondence course, or monthly program topic to meet the needs of women in this area, is invited to submit her idea to a member of the Morrow-Umatilla County Program Development Committee, or to Birdine Tullis, Morrow Extension Service, or Molly Saul, Umatilla County.

The program committee, made up of a cross section of women of all ages, geographical location, and interests from both counties, are presently discussing programs to be offered by Extension in both counties next year. Programs are selected to meet the needs of most in the two county area.

Morrow County representatives on the committee are Claudia Hughes, Nancy Myers, Liz Curtis, Heppner, and Francis McCoy, Irrigon. Each would welcome ideas from anyone in the area. Local input is very important to this group, if programs are to be offered that are of interest—according to Birdine Tullis; if we do not hear what you want...how can we know?

SEW FAIR COMING...

The first spring sunshine often makes for thoughts of spring sewing! To assist both experienced home sewers, and those just learning the skill, a SEW FAIR will be offered in Heppner, Mar. 8th. Local homemakers are encouraged to watch for full information concerning the event in the very near future when all plans are complete.

ANIMAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

With most ranchers well into their calving season, many animal health concerns are foremost on their minds. To help answer some of these questions and concerns, a Beef Animal Health Workshop has been planned for Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. at Heppner High School, Room 10.

Some very timely and important topics will be covered in this workshop, says Mike Howell, county Extension agent. Dr. Norden Stefanides, DVM, will be the main speaker for the workshop. Dr. Stefanides will talk on pre-conditioning of calves, calving problems and procedures, antibiotics (what are they?—how to use them properly), plus an update on new veterinary equipment and products. All livestock producers, 4-H, and FFA members are invited to attend this workshop.

Engineer quits, doctors ask facility

Stan Wallulis and Associates, Pendleton, presented the Boardman city council with a letter of resignation Tuesday night. Wallulis has been serving as the city's consulting engineer.

The council accepted the resignation with the understanding that Wallulis and Associates would complete the projects they are presently engaged in. The Ranney water collector and sewer projects are currently under Wallulis advisement.

Jim Michel, Gene Salter and Bill Wells included with their resignation findings on the George Hansen sewer and water lines. Michel indicated that the pipeline had not been laid according to standards.

The trench bedding the pipe is laid in is described by the Pendleton engineers as inconsistent. Though portions of it are firm, others are not packed. Eventually the effect of such a base would result in the pipe's line with the ground becoming wavy. City councilors proposed to remedy the bedding problems by working with Hansen.

Dr. Richard Carpenter, Heppner Medical Clinic, asked the city to supply a building to house a medical clinic. "Dr. (Joe) Gifford and I feel Boardman deserves medical care. We're not asking for an exotic medical facility."

The doctors have located a doctor (name withheld) who is willing to serve Boardman five days a week if the city can offer a medical facility. Carpenter expressed urgency in the city's action as the proposed doctor had set a March 1 deadline. The physicians have designated a June 1 opening for the Boardman clinic.

"The doctor would be needed in Heppner 10 to 15 per cent of the time," said Carpenter. The three doctors would rotate the Boardman clinic among themselves, hopefully holding the same days each week.

Equipment for the office would be supplied by the three men and rent would be paid. No X-ray or lab facility is planned. "This is more of a temporary thing until the city is able to afford a more exotic facility," described Carpenter.

"I think it's a good idea," said councillor Gene Trumbull. "We've been paying into the Morrow County hospital district for years and haven't been getting a thing out of it."

Hours would run Monday through Friday beginning at 8:30 a.m. until the final patient has been treated. For emergency cases a nurse or nurse practitioner is planned for full-time in Boardman.

The council moved to go on record in support of the endeavor and to help doctors Gifford and Carpenter locate a medical facility in Boardman.

Mayor Gerry Peck appointed a committee headed by Gene Trumbull to investigate building possibilities. The committee's responsibilities also involve an understanding of exactly what the doctors are looking for and a dollar figure they might have in mind for rental fee.

Low income housing for Boardman was offered development assistance from David Noles of the Oregon Rural Housing agency. Operating on a federal grant, the agency's main function is to aid com-

munities in development of low income housing projects.

"You have a shortage of rental housing in Boardman," surmised Noles. "Most people who need rental housing have low incomes."

Noles suggested that management of a project would best be handled by a housing authority. Poor management of such projects do lead to ghetto related problems.

Food processors in the Port of Morrow Industrial Park, east of Boardman, have indicated the need for low income housing for their workers.

Presently there is a state move, according to Noles, to create a Umatilla-Morrow County housing authority. Cities are prohibited from making any profit on the endeavor.

"I would guess that low income for this area might be families of three or more earning '\$11,000 annually,'" said Noles.

The first step would be to locate an acceptable site. The council gave Noles its vote of confidence. He was approved to coordinate and look into the

need for low income housing in Boardman.

In other action the council: • Heard the third reading of the local improvement district ordinance from city attorney, Van Valkenburgh. It authorizes a study of the 18-inch water line proposed for

Boardman South.

• Transferred \$1,000 from the revenue sharing contingency fund to capital outlay revenue sharing fund for payment on a \$3,000 flat-bed truck purchased at the Feb. 1 meeting;

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