SOIL MOISTURE AND ITS RELATION TO PRODUCTIVITY

Fourth of a Series of Articles on Farm and Orchard Problems in the Rogue River Valley by a Soil Expert—Precipitation at Present Season and Its Extent.

By W. W. WATKINS.

If the farmers will watch the record of precipitation every month during the period of months in which rain falls in this valley, keeping an eye on the temperatures and the velocity and consistency of the wind for the same period, they can keep a reasonably close account of the moisture in the soil of their fields. They must have some knowledge of the character of the soil, of the movements of moisture in it, of the intensity of evaporation and of the effects of successive wetting and drying of the ground.

The seasonal rains in this valley usually begin in September. Last September the soils of this farming area were what is called "dust dry" to a depth of four feet. During that month we had .91 of an inch of rain. It came in sprinkles that barely moistened the surface of the soil and evaporated at once. In October we had 1.52 inches. It came in several showers. Had it come in one shower it would have moistened the soil to the extent of four and one-half per cent.

The Air Consumed It.

Before the November rains began, the arid air had consumed that percentage. So, when the precipitation began for that month the soil contained only that infinitesimal percentage of moisture left after a five months' period of drouth. Vegetation was dead and the orchards and vineyards had suffered a loss in vitality much greater than they will be able to recover this year, no matter how generous the precipitation. The drouth was so severe that fruits and crops of all kinds, except those under irrigation, had failed. In many instances not enough harvest was obtained to pay for the seed planted. In many other instances there was no harvest at all. A long season, with all its hard work, seed expense and a weary, dismal stretch of "watchful waiting," all for nothing. Disgusted farmers, exhausted teams, interest on mortgages piling up and the meagre domestic larder were the chief objects of pity in the season's wreckage. This is not a pleasing reminiscence. This writer experienced it in all its gloomy aspects. But these statements are facts; and it is time to apply the straight-edge and hew to the line.

Pitter Patter in November

In November the rainfall amounted to 3.75 inches. "That's what we want!" shouted the farmers, joyfully; and, God bless them, it was; they needed it, but there wasn't enough of it. Had it been twice that amount and kept it up till the first of next May, their prayers would have been bountifully answered. It hasn't done that by half, so far, and if I were to guess that it will not do it up to the first of May I might offend the weather bureau by anticipating its report.

While this moisture, less than the leptocapillary point, was being thirstily consumed by the parched soil particles, more than half of it was absorbed by the air. After all, the soil received small benefit from it. Small grass of ephemeral life and delicate rootage made a start, although two months late, but it died before it received another installment of moisture. Not enough saturation had remained in the surface soil sufficiently long to perfect the chemical combinations that produce plant food.

Fall Work Impossible

Up to the end of November not enough rain had fallen to enable the farmers to do their fall plowing—plowing that should have been done in September. Cover crops, therefore, were impossible. Grain was planted, and, with the straw it got up to the rare one September rains began. It appears to be having some tendency, but unless the rainfall forgotten in quantity it will pursue the gold standard through the season to maturity, as county affairs do. A county yield will be the result.

The soils of Rogue River valley are rich in the constituents that make large yields of an excellent quality of grain; but these elements cannot be combined to produce plant growth without water. Two tons per acre in grain yields in this county last year was very great. All it lacked was water. We can't get away from that relating factor in agriculture. It is just as necessary for the plant as it is for the farmer.

In November the rainfall amounted to 4.25 inches. Those who did their plowing immediately following the shower during that month made some progress, but it was made under difficulties that prevented the farmer from doing his work effectively.

Motive Planting Necessary

Many farmers of the valley had wisely concluded to plow to a more greater depth this year than ever before, but rain has not fallen in sufficient quantity to moisten the "plow sole"—a sort of hardpan formed at the depth to which plowing has been done for years—and the result is that the cultivation done so far is necessarily ineffective. If a properly tested tractor had been used the soil would have been turned up in compact flakes and clods. These contain conservation, which cannot be effected properly without moisture. Whatever may you term, whatever way you frame, no matter what your theory, it must contain water. On the four great physical factors in agriculture, water is first. Crop can not be made without it. And 97% of it is non-productive.

So far during the present month the precipitation, including all of the drizzles and snow flurries, amounts to 1.60 inches. During last month and this month to date the temperatures have been lower and for that reason the loss by evaporation is much less than during the two preceding months; but the moisture content of the soil of the valley today is painfully inconsequential.

PARENT-TEACHERS CIRCLE TO MEET

The Parent-Teacher circle of the Medford high school has just completed the first year of its work and the members wish to thank all who have so generously helped with music, interesting papers, etc. The object of the association is to bring the home and school into closer relationship and with a larger membership, much of mutual benefit might be accomplished. Your co-operation is most earnestly desired. The next meeting will be held Friday evening, January 21, at 7:45 o'clock, in the high school building. Mrs. George Andrews and Mrs. Frederick Lange will contribute the musical numbers of the program and the subject for discussion will be "Home Reading and the Use of the Library." You are very cordially invited to attend.

An especial effort is being made to encourage the attendance of the parents tomorrow night. The work to be effected is particularly important to them. They are deeply concerned in the work of the circle. Their manifested interest is very helpful. This cannot be extended without attendance at these meetings. The teachers are faithfully serving them in this matter. It is felt that they should help to make the work of the circle in every way effective.

FINED $25 FOR KILLING FAWN

ASHLAND, Jan. 20.—An aggravated case of killing deer out of season was settled in Justice Leo Trefren's court yesterday by fining Chris. Gauckle $25 and costs. The animal shot was a fawn. Information was promptly filed with the authorities by Deputy Game Warden Ed Walker of Medford. The case afforded indisputable evidence and Gauckle pleaded guilty. He had figured in justice's court heretofore for other offenses aside from infraction of the game laws.

In this case the heavy snows of the past few days in the hills had driven the young deer down to the valley. Gauckle's home is on the Southern Pacific line, almost against the edge of Ashland municipal limits. The deer was on the right-of-way, near Gauckle's dooryard. Gauckle shot it. Neighbors telephoned to the game warden and the arrest followed before the culprit had dressed the deer. He admitted that he was morally sure that nobody was looking, or he wouldn't shot the fawn.

AS WE GROW OLDER

our minds are quite as active as in former years but our strength does not respond when we need it most; perhaps the kidneys are weak, the liver torpid, rheumatic pains or stiffened joints beset us, and we cannot easily throw off the colds that winter brings.

What we need is the rich cod liver oil in Scott's Emulsion to renew the blood and carry strength to every organ of the body, while its glycerine soothes the respiratory tract, and its hypophosphites strengthen the excitable nerves.

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TALENT TALK

The debating teams of Ashland and Talent held a preliminary debate at the Talent High school Friday evening, Jan. 14. The question discussed was "Should the U. S. Adopt the Universal Service of the Swiss Military System and Service?" Ashland held the affirmative and was represented by Reuben Annett, Raymond Parker and Clem Kirk. Talent held the negative and was represented by Ena Scott, Beatrice Grindley and Lloyd Turner. Many interesting extemporaneous were given, and the debate was enjoyed by all present. Contest was judged on the decision an audience.

Lovin Bates is confined to her home with a slight illness.

Dr. and Mrs. Caldwell have returned to their home on Wagner creek.

Counting the town line on Wagner creek for the past two weeks, and everybody has enjoyed the sport immensely. A few of the participants received minor injuries, none, however, of enough to cause them to lay indoors. Everybody is expecting results on the snow water.

T. H. S. is increasing rapidly this semester. Ada Hall, Annie Dell and Roy Reynolds have entered the Freshman high school for the winter term. Henry Pace and Ted Benson have also re-entered.

The Talent school has played physiology and hygiene on the list of subjects for the new semester, and quite a class has organized.

J. Percy Watts was a school visitor Monday.

A teachers' meeting was held Monday at 4 o'clock. The topics discussed were the play, letter writing, verse and chalk modeling contest. The regular meeting of the Commercial club met in the high school January 15.

Miss Rogers of Jacksonville is the new teacher of the Anderson room school.

Mrs. Kenny Branth is very ill and is staying at the home of her aunt, Mrs. G. A. Marie.

H. C. Hyde and family have moved to the home of Mrs. Ella Holdridge. They will remain until their new residence is erected on their property.

The young people of the Epworth league of Phoenix will give a play "The Family Affair" in the Talent high school Friday evening, January 21. Part of the proceeds go to the Epworth league.

The members and friends of the M. E. church gave Mr. and Mrs. H. C. High a kitchen utensil shower at the church Monday evening. Light refreshments were served.

The Tuesday Study club met at the home of Mrs. H. H. Matteson Tuesday afternoon Jan. 19.

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs held joint installation of officers last Saturday night.

The officers installed were: C. A. Hasen, Mrs. C. A. Hasen, noble grand; J. H. Holdridge, Mrs. J. Patterson, vice grand; C. W. Holdridge, Mrs. Effie Seaman, rec. sec.; Geo. Gabredin, Mrs. C. W. Holdridge, fin. sec.; Clay Patterson, Mrs. Hudgeon, treasurer.

Mrs. Willets of Klamath Falls is the guest of Mrs. Walters.

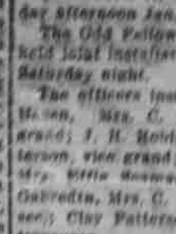
The first of a series of championship games between the secondary schools of Southern Oregon was played in the Talent high school gym Saturday evening. The Talent boys met a team which was their equal, but their knowledge of the floor gave Talent the leading score. The game was well attended, and everybody was pleased with the fairness which Deputy Sheriff Wilson displayed in refereeing. At the end of the first half the score was 5 to 5. In the second half Talent settled down and began to play basket ball and combined with rooting nosed Jacksonville out of the victory. The line-up was as follows:

Talent		Jacksonville
Terrill	C	Collins
Coleman	G	Singler
Morse	G	Welch
Jones	F	Reter
Prader	F	Fleming

Score—13-6.

The Coming Baby! Hooray! Hooray!

Nothing else can so completely endear us to the present and the future as the expected arrival of a baby, but to the mass of the mother is of vast importance. There is a splendid external remedy known as "Mother's Friend" which exerts a wonderful influence upon the expanding muscles. They become more pliant, stretch without undue pain, make the period one of pleasant anticipation instead of apprehension. In a series of splendid letters you all say the majority mothers tell of the great help "Mother's Friend" was to them. Even grandmothers tell the wonderful story to their own daughters about to enter the state of motherhood. Get a bottle of "Mother's Friend" today of your nearest druggist. Use this splendid help with your own hand aided by your own mind. Our free book of interest and importance to all mothers write to Bradfield Regulator Co., 420 Lamar Bldg., Atlanta, Ga. It tells [illegible] experiences of many happy mothers, [illegible] many things that all women should be informed of. It is of such a noble and uplifting character. Write for this book.



The following books have been received from the Bale bureau:

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Carroll.

Pere the Leaving Book (Fiction, Historical Plays, Poems).

The Rhyming Reader, Rhyming.

Maps of the 18th Century Colonies, Historical.

The Elements, Tilden.

APPLEGATE

Belle Hide of Murphy spent Monday at Tom Heppner's, where the latter is doing carpenter work.

D. E. Wood left on the stage Monday for Medford.

Miss Ethel Tapping of the Fairview district, has taken up high school studies at Applegate.

Mrs. L. M. Spencer of Prescott is convalescing from measles after a week's stay in Jacksonville.

Fred Kennedy of Williams creek passed through Applegate Monday in his sleigh and says there is two feet of snow at the Williams postoffice.

People in the Applegate valley are greatly surprised to think it could snow so much and so long, as they have been calling off their hay in the rain and the commencement are very little hay and lots of poor cattle.

The Prescott school has closed for a short time on account of bad weather, and their teacher, Miss Collins, is spending her vacation at Applegate.

George Herriott and family are spending a few days with Mrs. Herriott's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, south of Murphy.

John Bloxham, from upper Thompson creek, came down to Applegate yesterday and says sleighing is great.

Quite a number of people in this vicinity are suffering with bad colds and the grip.

SUDDEN DEATH

Caused by Disease of the Kidneys.

The close connection which exists between the heart and the kidneys is well known nowadays. As soon as kidneys are diseased, arterial tension is increased and the heart functions are attacked. When the kidneys no longer purify waste, uremic poisoning occurs and the person dies, and the cause is often given as heart disease, or disease of brain or lungs.

It is a good insurance against such a risk to send 10 cents for a sample package of "Anuric"—the latest discovery of Dr. Pierce. Also send a sample of your water. This will be examined without charge by expert chemists at Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y. When you suffer from backache, frequent or scanty urine, rheumatic pains here or there, or that constant tired, worn-out feeling, it's time to write Dr. Pierce, describe your symptoms and get his medical opinion without charge—absolutely free. This "Anuric" of Doctor Pierce's is found to be 27 times more active than lithia, for it dissolves uric acid in the system as hot water does sugar.

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Leave Ashland for Medford daily except Sunday at 9 a. m., 12:50, 2:50, 5:50, 4:45 and 6:15 p. m. Sunday leave Ashland at 9 a. m., 1:00, 5:00 and 10:30 p. m.

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Circuit

T. M. Dodge et al. E. A. and Sarah A. Plemmons et al., demurrer filed.

Probate

In the matter of the estate of S. Mitsumaru, deceased, notice of sale and proof of posting and report of sale.

In the matter of the estate of Chas. S. Davis, deceased, petition and order appointing administratrix.

Real Estate Transfers

Robert Ashworth to Agnes M. Sanderson, lots 15 in Block 12, Central Point	$ 1
Geo. E. Cowden et ux to Edgar E. Smith, lot 16, block 19, Butte Falls	160
W. H. Ridgley, sheriff, to W. E. Coe, land in Sec. 34-7W,	3,571
Polk Hall et ux to Lewis H. Brown et ux, land in Bybee's Reserve, Medford	10
Polk Hall et ux to Lewis P. Brown, lot in Barnum's Addition, Medford	10

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Apply Cream 10 Nostrils To Open Up All Passages

Ah! What relief! Your clogged nostrils open right up, the air passages of your head are clear and you can breathe freely. No more hawking, snuffling, mucous discharge, headache, dryness—no struggling for breath at night; your cold or catarrh is gone.

Don't stay stuffed up! Get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm from your druggist now. Apply a little of this fragrant, antiseptic cream in your nostrils, let it penetrate through every air passage of the head, soothe and heal the swollen, inflamed mucous membrane, giving you instant relief. Ely's Cream Balm is just what every cold and catarrh sufferer has been asking for. It's the acknowledged remedy.

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FOR SALE—A-1 milch cow, Jersey and Durham mixed. E. L. March, 2 miles northeast from Central Point. 280

FOR SALE—Or trade, registered A. J. C. C. Jerseys, one cow and one bull dropped Feb. 23, 1915. John B. Hair, Rogue River, Ore. 274

FOR SALE—Team of mules, weight 2600 lbs. each, 6 year olds, $235. O. C. Boggs. *

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MISCELLANEOUS

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