

# County Agent Suggests Removing Old Wood In Pruning Rosebushes

Removing old wood and leaving new wood is a key to successful rosebud pruning, according to C. B. Cordy, county horticulturist.

Cordy pointed out that bush roses should consist primarily of one-year-old wood. He recommended removal as much as possible of wood older than one year.

**Reduce Blossoms**

Since pruning stimulates growth, it is advisable to prune vigorous-growing bushes lightly and weaker bushes more heavily. Pruning reduces the number of blossoms, Cordy noted, but enhances their quality. Those who grow roses to provide color in gardens generally prune their bushes less severely than those who grow them for show purposes. Many growers who desire color more than high quality blossoms prune just enough to assure growth of new wood from the base of the bush.

Cordy said the extent to which a bush should be pruned also depends partly on the amount of care it has received. A bush that has been well fertilized and watered needs less pruning than one that has been neglected.

**Common Error Noted**

If there is a scarcity of new wood on the bush, the county agent advises growers to retain what new wood there is and also leave some old wood be-

ing one-year-old side shoots.

The county agent said a common error evident in amateur pruning in this area is lack of thinning. Many growers have cut the tops off their bushes, but have failed to eliminate some of the old growth in the center of the bushes. Cutting off only tops will cause the bushes to grow upward and blossoms will be plentiful. However, too much old wood in the center of the bush will cause excessive shade and prevent growth of new wood.

Another reason old wood should not remain in the bushes is that there is danger of disease occurring, spreading to young shoots and eventually killing the bushes.

**Remove Shoots**

Most commercially sold rose bushes have stems of one variety grafted onto roots of another variety. Cordy explained that sometimes shoots originate from the roots and press through the earth, resulting in a rose growth different from the one the grower is raising. Cordy recommends removal of shoots growing below the graft union. These can be recognized easily because the size and leaf texture of the shoot will be different from those above the graft union.

Pruning of climbing roses differs somewhat from bush pruning, Cordy stated. Some climbers bloom well on one-year-old wood, and wood older than one year should be removed. Others bloom better on two-year-old wood, and wood older than two years should be removed.

**When To Prune**

For varieties which bloom once during the summer, pruning should be done immediately after the blooming period. Wood on which blossoms were most plentiful should be taken out and wood with fewer blossoms should be allowed to remain. For ever-blooming varieties, pruning can be done during the dormant season, after blooming period, Cordy said.

Spring flowering roses should be pruned after they are through blooming and summer flowering roses should be pruned during the winter.

**Spray Recommended**

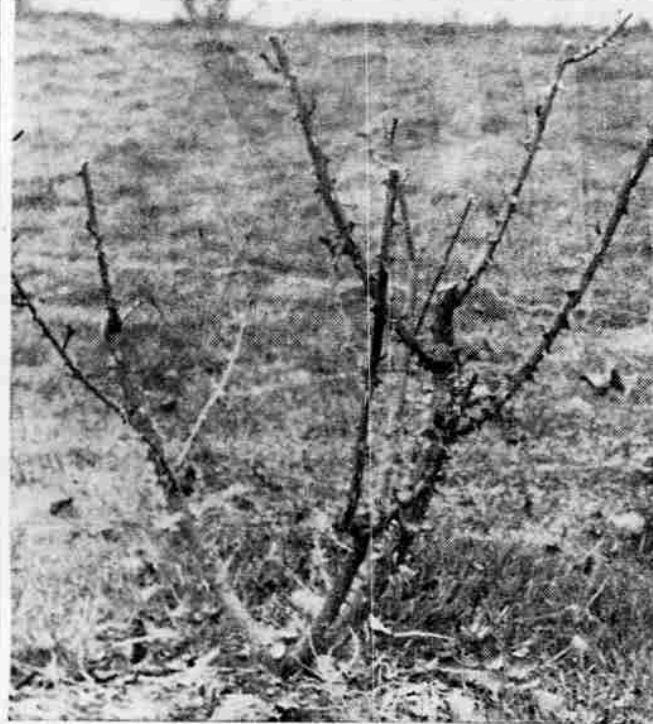
Cordy recommends use of a spray consisting of one-fourth pound of neutral copper in three gallons of water after pruning. The spray will sterilize wounds and prevent diseases from originating in the cuts and spreading to the remaining shoots. It is not necessary to use wound paint if copper spray is used, Cordy said. He emphasized the importance of thoroughly wetting the cane area, especially the cut surfaces.

Stimulation of new blooms during the summer will be more rapid if the blossoms are cut as soon as they fade rather than being allowed to form seed pods, the county agent said. He added that cutting back the blossoms also makes the bushes appear neater.

Faded blossoms should be cut back at least to the first five-leaflet cluster on the stem. Cordy said buds will not produce well in clusters of less than five leaflets.



**BEFORE PRUNING**—This rosebush at the R. D. Hollenbeck residence, 1002 Mt. Pitt ave. was photographed before pruning. It contained much old wood and evidenced a need for thinning. As it appeared here, the bush would produce a large number of blossoms but a limited amount of new wood.



**AFTER PRUNING**—County Agent C. B. Cordy removed old wood and thinned center growth in this rosebush at the Hollenbeck residence. Wood older than one year should be removed from bushes. Although this bush will not produce as many blossoms as it would have if left unpruned, quality of the blossoms will be better, Cordy said.

# Farm and Garden

## Pruning Costs Here Estimated \$500,000

As pruning in the Rogue valley draws to a close, orchardists tallied up the cost of this annual operation.

In the Medford-Ashland district it is estimated that nearly \$500,000 will be spent on labor alone to prune the more than 10,000 acres of pears. Pruning of other fruit trees in the valley will push this figure well over the half-million dollar mark.

According to C. B. Cordy, county agent for horticulture, the correct pruning methods can produce measurable results in increased production over a relatively short span of years. He noted that research in this field

has shown that the cost of pruning is more than offset by increased yield in succeeding seasons.

**Boost to Economy**

Cordy explained that the pruning operation, coming as it does in the normal slack period of employment in the area, provided a valuable boost to the economy. The majority of orchardists employ only a few pruners at any one time, however total season's employment is felt throughout the district.

Approximately 500 men are engaged in pruning in valley orchards at the peak of employment, Cordy said. He stated that most orchards have completed pruning and that the balance of them plan to finish by the middle of March, provided that the weather will allow outside field work.

**Dormant Spray Program**

In the continuing and overlapping round of orchard operations is the dormant spray program which is drawing to a close. This protective measure in pear orchards is applied to combat pear psylla, San Jose scale and red mite. Following on the heels of the dormant spray will be the early pink bud spray and the late pink bud spray, applied primarily to prevent scab from developing. The next major spray program will come at full bloom and is recommended for the control of blight in pears.

Cordy pointed out the importance of the spray programs in combating insects and disease by stating that a 1 per cent loss of the total crop for any reason means a total economic loss of \$150,000 to the area.

# Virus-Free Stone Fruit Selections Undergo Revisions

Salem — For the benefit of Oregon nurserymen growing fruit tree nursery stock the state department of agriculture has issued a revised list of stone fruit selections that are virus-free or carry only a minor virus disease. The list covers sweet and sour cherries and prunes.

It was prepared by Dr. Julius L. Heins, department plant disease survey pathologist and Dick Hemmerling, nursery inspector, on the basis of research work done with Dr. J. A. Milbrath of the Oregon experiment station.

**Some Eliminated**

The current list eliminates some of the selections made in 1954 because they carried a virus that make them less desirable for planting stock than those substituted.

This information, available to anyone interested, carries an evaluation of the various stone fruit sources used for nursery scion orchards and propagation stock. Fruit growers setting out new orchards or replanting old ones also might find it helpful in guiding their choice of nursery stock.

Later it is hoped to have available registered virus-free selections of pear and apple fruit stocks, department officials said.

**Help Offered**

The state department of agriculture and the experiment station will help nurserymen in getting budwood to establish mother blocks for virus-free selections. Both agencies discourage nursery row propagation (taking budwood from growth of last year's grafts in the nursery) but urge nurserymen to cut scionwood of indexed mother trees.

Under the nursery stock improvement program, indexing of scionwood orchards will be done at the experiment station by the department of agriculture. No indexing done by nurserymen will be approved unless it is carried on under close supervision of the department.

Regulatory procedures call for destruction of all trees that show distinct virus symptoms.

The revised list may be obtained from the State Department of Agriculture, Salem, from its Portland branch office, or from the experiment station in Corvallis.

**Five Top Dairy Herds for February Named in County**

The Jackson County Dairy Herd Improvement association has announced the five top producing herds in the county for the month of February.

The herds are owned by Grief and Nelson, 20 cows, none dry, average milk production 762 pounds, average butterfat production 40.1 pounds; Harry Dunn and Sons, 41 cows, 1 dry, 695 pounds milk, 34.4 pounds butterfat; Ed Damsay, 39 cows, 5 dry, 742 pounds milk, 33.5 pounds butterfat; and Gilman's Dairy farm, 101 cows, 10 dry, 835 pounds milk, 32.9 pounds butterfat.

**Top Cows**

The association named the 10 top cows in the county as follows, No. 7, owned by Gilman's Dairy farm, 1,938 pounds milk, 112.4 pounds butterfat, 36 days in milk; No. 12, Gilman's Dairy farm, 1,809 pounds milk, 106.7 pounds butterfat, 30 days in milk; Nicklette, Richard and Elizabeth Westberg, 1,459 pounds milk, 105 pounds butterfat, 30 days in milk; No. 114, Gilman's Dairy farm, 1,148 pounds milk, 80.4 pounds butterfat, 25 days in milk.

No. 78, Gilman's Dairy farm, 2,262 pounds milk, 79.2 pounds butterfat, 36 days in milk; Blucey, M. B. Caster, 1,624 pounds of milk, 73.1 pounds butterfat, 60 days in milk; Myra, Richard and Elizabeth Westberg, 1,436 pounds of milk, 71.8 pounds butterfat, 97 days in milk; Julie, Lewis and Ruth Clark, 1,095 pounds milk, 71.2 pounds butterfat, 41 days in milk; No. 2, Straus Brothers, 1,148 pounds milk, 70 pounds butterfat, 37 days in milk; and Dina, Clarence and Sadie Williams, 1,215 pounds milk, 69.3 pounds butterfat, 34 days in milk.

# Wheat Industry Goals, Necessities Set for Future

Corvallis—The task of charting the future development of Oregon's wheat industry has been assigned to a five-man executive committee by the 200 persons who attended the Oregon Wheat Industry conference held Feb. 19 and 20 in Portland.

Four of the five were chairmen for main conference committees for more than 10 months with the help of 18 sub-committees.

They are Don McKinnis, Summerville wheat grower, who headed the production and land use committee; Sam Cook, Pendleton wheat grower, chairman of the income and costs committee; Vic Mosen, president of the Portland Grain Exchange, chairman of the marketing committee; and Clancy Jean, manager of the agricultural department, Portland chamber of commerce, chairman of the government programs committee.

F. E. Price, dean and director of agriculture at Oregon State college and chairman for the industry conference, is the fifth member of the executive group.

A resolution unanimously passed at the final session of the two-day conference set up the five-man organization to study the reports presented and to devise methods for carrying out the recommendations made by the various committees in behalf of the state's No. 1 farm crop.

**Recommendations Listed**

Some of these recommendations included:

Research to develop new types of wheat food products suited to modern diets; maintenance of a large strategic food wheat reserve charged to civilian defense; expansion of conservation practices, with establishment of grass in a long-term rotation on wheat farms for a permanent productive cropping system; an industry-sponsored wheat price support program which would encourage greater production of high quality types of wheat and modernization of terminal wheat unloading facilities.

The conference, one of the most thorough self-studies by an agricultural group in history, was prompted by sharp declines in wheat crop dollar returns. It was organized by the college at the request of the Oregon Wheat Growers league.

It was pointed out that the value of the state's wheat crop has dropped 40 per cent in the last three years—from around \$74 million in 1953 to \$44 million in 1955.

# Department of Agriculture Describes Work in Floods

Salem—The recent floods in eastern Oregon brings to light a little known activity of the state department of agriculture. This is the investigation of food supplies, including locker plants, in all areas under water.

Here, for example, is the way the department operates under flood conditions as summarized from recent daily reports of R. M. Smith, foods and dairies fieldman working in the territory on the eastern side of the state.

**Surveyed Stores**

February 26—Surveyed food stores and lockers flooded Sunday and Monday at Vale. Lower tier of lockers flooded in one locker plant; room cleaned and temperature now down to 15 degrees. Owner notifying all people with flooded lockers to clean them. Health department on air to notify owners not to use meat in flooded locker areas. Food stores cleaning up and doing good job of disposing of damaged food.

February 27—R. F. Wolthar, federal foods and drug official from Seattle arrived from Boise to volunteer services. Visited grocery stores, locker plants and drug stores. One food market opened on limited basis; no damage at two stores; two groceries still closed and cleaning up. Preparing sign to warn locker renters at one plant of contamination in lower tier; meat from other lockers moved to Nyssa; two tubs contaminated hamburger meat taken off market. Preliminary estimate of damage to food stores: \$6000.

**Warnings Posted**

February 28—Posted warning signs urging locker renters to discard foods contaminated by flood waters. Inspected another grocery; it is closed and will follow directions in salvaged submerged foods but situation is bad due to common line for sewage and storm drains. Revisited other stores; warned one on cleanup practices.

March 1—Checked three more stores in Vale area. Cooperation throughout this period has been excellent between the department health department, the Red Cross and federal men here. And if you wonder what may or may not be salvaged from

# Animals Condemned In Four Counties

Salem — Animals condemned under the pilot meat inspections recently concluded in 12 plants in Washington, Yamhill, Polk and Marion counties represented 1.85 per cent of the total slaughter in the two weeks of the study.

This is the highest figure yet recorded for a single period of the pilot inspections, according to M. E. Knickerbocker, animal division chief of the state department of agriculture. This study did not include all plants in the four counties.

In these plants, 810 animals were slaughtered. One was condemned on antemortem inspection and 14 on post-mortem inspection. Animals condemned as unfit for human consumption were nine cattle, four sheep and two pigs. The causes ranged from emaciation to cancerous conditions.

# Weeds and Herbicides

By RAY HUBBEL  
County Weed Control Superintendent

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles on weeds and herbicides written for the Mail Tribune by Ray Hubbel, county weed control superintendent. Readers having questions concerning weeds or weed control may send them to the county extension office, county courthouse, Medford. As many answers as possible will be printed in the Weeds and Herbicides column. Others will be answered by letter.

First of all, what is a weed? A weed is any plant growing in an undesirable place. A herbicide is a material for chemical control of these plants. If any plant can be classified as a weed under certain conditions, this means weeds number in the thousands.

Each plant has somewhat different requirements as to location, soil, weather and water needs. They also have different tolerances to the herbicides used for their control. For this reason the different formulations of herbicides are large in number.

**Experiments Conducted**

Experiments by colleges, chemical companies and many others have determined some of these plant tolerances, which herbicides to use for best results, when they should be used and how they should be used.

We hope through these articles to be of assistance in helping to control some of these weed problems.

These are some points to consider in weed control work:

1. The weed to be controlled, its growth habits and location in regard to plants we may not want to damage.
2. Which herbicide should be used for best results, economy and safety.
3. Times this herbicide should be used, susceptibility of plants, surrounding conditions and weather.
4. How the herbicide should be applied, what rates to use, carriers, necessary emulsifiers and the like.

**Labels Important**

We might stress at this point ALWAYS READ THE LABEL on any chemical container. Know what you are working with and how it is to be used. You will find better results by following the directions on these labels.

Methods of control can be classified as selective and non-selective. The herbicides, depending upon which weeds they are used on and at what rates, may be used for either of these control methods. At high rates of application, herbicides are used for complete sterilization. At lower rates, this material is used for taking annual grasses and weeds out of alfalfa.

**Meeting Planned**

Those interested in weeds and weed control will be welcome to attend the all-day meeting on weed control by chemicals and mechanization to be held Wednesday, March 27, at Big-ham hall at the county fairgrounds.

The meeting, sponsored by the state department of agriculture, highway department and Oregon State college, is one in a series of area meetings being held throughout the state.

Speakers will include Ray Kelso, state department of agriculture; Jack Ross, Oregon State college farm crops specialist; and Bill Koesan, member of the state highway department.

# Plant Guide List Published by OSC

Corvallis—A new bulletin designed to help homeowners select the best plants to use in landscaping their homes and surrounding areas has been published by the Oregon State college extension service.

More than 400 plants grown in Oregon are listed in the new bulletin. Plants are classified according to height, with low plants from 6 to 12 inches high to trees over 100 feet high included in the listings.

Growing zones are included as a guide to home owners in various sections of the state.

Descriptions include manner of growth, flowering habit and color, scientific name, common name, amount of sun needed, geographical area of adoption in the state, and a brief summary on how to grow the plant.

Special sections also are included on vines, rhododendron culture, and health and heather culture.

The bulletin, titled "Plant Materials for Landscaping," was written by Don Martel, head of the OSC department of landscape architecture. Oregon residents can get a copy at their local county extension office, or from the OSC bulletin clerk in Corvallis.

# Gov. Holmes Announces March Wildlife Week

Salem—Theme for observance of National Wildlife Week in Oregon, March 17 to 23, will be "There is still much worth in a bird in the bush," Gov. Robert D. Holmes has announced.

The governor warned, "Oregon's fine heritage of wildlife, wilderness and recreation areas may easily be frittered away unless we take concerted measures to preserve them."

He asked citizens to acquaint themselves with the problems of preservation of natural resources, to give support to programs of protection and restoration of wildlife areas.



See Your Dealer for  
**Ammonium Sulphate**  
that flows free

**SHELL**

**L. G. McLaren & Co.**  
Distributors  
1002 S. Central Phone 2-6181

you don't have to  
**DIG** for it...  
when  
you use the  
**WANT ADS!**

# Nine Local Entries Sent For Annual Exposition

Glenn Klein, county 4-H agent, Wednesday mailed nine local entries to San Francisco for the Grand National Livestock exposition April 13-17 at Cow Palace.

Entering Jackson county animals in the exposition will be Bill Herlein, Ashland; Dale Smith, Central Point; Charles Elmore, Applegate; John James, Talent; Leon Small, Medford; Carol vonderHellen, Central Point; JoAnna Malloroy, Eagle Point; Susan Wright, Medford; and Judy Bradshaw, Lake Creek.

**BIG - FIR**

- Slabs and Rough Blox—Green
- Dandy to Burn with Dry Wood
- Big Double Load or Single Load

**MEDFORD FUEL CO.**  
Telephone 2-2111 Court & McAndrews

discover the difference in **UTILITY!**  
at **DE LEIGH MOTORS**

Four-door or two-door, these new Studebaker station wagons are as glamorous as a Hollywood premiere. But they're great workers, too. A special two-stage rear spring lets them carry heavy loads on rough roads, and still ride as comfortably as sedans. Come in and drive one. Discover for yourself—*Craftsmanship makes the big difference!*

**NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY**  
**Studebaker '57**