

Marketing Problem for Fruits, Vegetables

Mondo 'Grass' to Undergo Tests at OSC This Spring

Corvallis — Mondo "grass," currently being promoted in several parts of the country for home lawns, is scheduled for test at Oregon State college to answer local inquiries on its suitability for this area.

Harry Schoth, USDA agronomist in charge of the tests, said plantings this spring will probably require two or more years of study. Mondo cannot be recommended for the Northwest until careful study is made, he stated.

Mississippi State college, following introduction of Mondo as a "lawn grass" for southern states, reported it unsuitable for turf and unable to stand heavy foot traffic in that area.

Mondo is not a grass but a low-growing perennial closely related to the lily-of-the-valley. Its grass-like leaves are 1/2-inch wide, rather rigid, grow 6 to 12 inches long and have a tendency to droop. It produces small violet or bluish-tinted flowers followed by pale blue berries.

Stemless Tufted Plants
The stemless tufted plants spread from underground stems and tuberous roots. Plants set close together are reported to do well in either sunlight or dense shade, stand considerable wide range of soil and climatic conditions. It proved winter-hardy in USDA tests near Washington, D.C.

While Mondo is used in some southern states and southern Europe for borders and edgings, Schoth said it has also been advertised for "lawns" that require no mowing. USDA researchers pointed out it needs no mowing where a height of 6 to 12 inches is not objectionable.

The plant recovered slowly when mowed, the USDA scientists said. Removal of the top portion of the leaf exposes an open unsightly "sod" that may thin out further if mowing is continued.

Farmers Advised to Protect Allotments

Corvallis — Farmers with wheat acreage allotments should protect allotments by signing a request to stabilize their wheat acreage history, Robert T. Lister, Prineville, chairman of the Oregon agricultural stabilization and conservation (ASC) committee, has advised.

Requests must be signed and filed in local county ASC offices by May 1, Lister said. Forms are available in the county offices, and farmers are advised to make sure they meet the deadline.

One provision of the Soil Bank law states that a farmer may lose part of his wheat acreage allotment if he underplants; accidentally or intentionally; Lister explained. He emphasized that any farmer in any part of the state can protect his allotment, by signing one of the request forms.

Declines Observed In Production Here

(Editor's note: How is agriculture doing in Jackson county? What is its future? How does it stack up as compared to the past? What are the major items of income? (The following is one of a series of six articles, prepared by the Mail Tribune in cooperation with the county agricultural extension office and others, in an attempt to answer these questions.)

Marketing has always been the major problem facing growers of small fruits and vegetables in Jackson county.

Lack of good markets is the main reason these enterprises represent only a tiny fraction of the county's overall agricultural economy. The area itself is well adapted to growing a wide variety of these crops, according to Don Berry, county horticulture agent.

Four Major Vegetables
Four major vegetables are raised here, onions, tomatoes, corn and cantaloupes. Onions, tomatoes and corn are the only ones exported in significant quantity. They are sent by truck as far south as San Francisco and as far north as Portland, and a few exports are made to inter-mountain states.

These vegetables are also sold on local markets, which include Jackson county, Redmond, Bend, Gold Beach, Klamath Falls and Roseburg in Oregon, and Crescent City and Red Bluff in California.

Cantaloupes and squash are grown here for local consumption. Numerous other vegetables, regarded as minor crops, are also sold locally through fruit stands or to local grocery stores.

Onion Production
Onions appear to be the only locally grown vegetable that have not experienced a significant decline here in recent years. But there is less acreage here even in onions than there was at one time. In 1956, there were an estimated 80 acres of onions in the county, as compared with 107 in 1939, which was the peak year for production.

Jackson county at one time had around 400 acres of tomatoes, most of which were sold for processing. The tomato acreage figure dropped to 200 in 1946, and was down to about 100 in 1956.

Production of corn as a vegetable has always been erratic, Berry pointed out. Acreage has varied from 50 to about 200. In 1946, acreage was estimated at 200, and last year it was estimated at 150.

Cantaloupe Acreage
Cantaloupe acreage was estimated at about 50 in 1956, and between 65 and 75 in 1939. The county had about 25 acres of squash in 1956 and a slight downward trend has been evident in recent years.

Among minor crops showing declines have been lettuce and potatoes. In 1929, there were 21 acres of lettuce, and in 1956 there were none. Potato acreage dropped from about 300 in 1945 to about 50 in 1956. Radishes, once raised here for export, have about completely left the picture. At one time 30 to 40 acres were being raised here, but there is no radish acreage at the present time.

Berry says vegetable growers in other areas have been able to "steal" local markets from Jackson county farmers because they can produce and transport their products more profitably than local growers can. Also, local growers do not produce in large enough quantities to supply major chain stores or terminal markets. Thus, as the market for locally produced vegetables declined, farmers turned to raising other more profitable crops or seeking outside employment.

Roadside Stands
But local growers are not giving up on the vegetable market. The county agent said there has been a definite increase lately in establishment of roadside fruit stands. By selling produce in this manner, the grower eliminates the "middle man" and can realize more profit on his sales. Local growers are also improving grades and standards in packaging their produce for market, thus getting farm fresh, high quality produce to the local consumer.

Growers of small fruits have faced market problems similar to those of vegetable growers, and have experienced the added problem of disease. Strawberry growing has been especially undermined by black root rot among Northwests and strawberry yellows virus among Marshalls. These two are considered to be the highest quality varieties. They can be grown here in higher average yield per acre than the Willamette valley, but below average California production.

Strawberry Growing
In 1956, there were about 65 acres of strawberries here, as compared with 80 in 1949. Berry says there would be a possibility of growing more strawberries here if a disease-resistant, high quality variety could be developed.

Acreage of boysen and youngberries has also fallen in the last 16 years. In 1940, there were an estimated 140 acres, as compared with only 50 in 1956. The county agent said presence of crown or cane gall disease, combined with limited markets, has made large-scale production of these berries impractical.

Wilt disease has held down acreages of red and black raspberries, and there have been no high quality varieties available to grow in this area. In 1949, there were about five acres of black raspberries as compared with three in 1956. In 1949, there were 30 acres of red raspberries, as compared with about 20 in 1956.

New Variety
There were only about three acres of tamar blackberries in 1956, and about eight in 1946. Berry said there is a possibility of expanding tamar blackberry acreage here as the result of a variety recently developed at Oregon State college. This new variety, called Marion, is showing considerable promise as a vigorous, high quality berry, and is being recommended to those who want to grow blackberries.

Berry commented there seems little future in grape production in this area because the average season is too short for development of good quality grapes. There were about 20 acres in 1956, as compared with 40 in 1946. He noted, however, that expanded production will be possible only if and when a high quality, early season grape variety is developed.

The county agent said growers of both vegetables and small fruits are being urged to organize and work toward developing better markets on which survival of these industries depends.

Four Local Men To Attend Meet
Four members of the Jackson county fair board will attend a two-day spring workshop on fair next week at Corvallis.

Attending the Monday and Tuesday meetings from here will be J. W. Bigham, Francis Krouse, Ed Fossen and Earle Jossy. The sessions will include discussions of fair problems and suggested solutions. Gov. Robert D. Holmes will be speaker at the Monday evening banquet.

The workshop is being held under joint sponsorship of the Oregon fair board and Oregon State college.

Missouri cottontail rabbits rear 3.8 litters annually with an average of 4.4 animals in each litter.

Early Marketing Of Lambs Pays; Pointers Listed

Corvallis—Oregon sheepmen slated to market more than a half-million fat lambs this spring and summer, mostly to out-of-state consumers, could net an extra \$3 a head from lambs finished off before mid-June, according to Oregon State college extension specialists.

W. Y. Fowler, livestock marketing specialist, says lamb prices are expected to hold strong, following the pace set by beef. Best prices will go to early spring lambs, he adds, that fill the market gap between California's peak April sales and late June marketings elsewhere.

Rule Still Holds
The old rule of thumb that a 75-pound lamb on Memorial Day may be worth more than a 90-pound lamb on July 4 still holds, the specialist says. Sharp price drops normally hit here about June 15.

Fowler and John Landers, OSC livestock specialist, offer the following suggestions for boosting lambs to early markets: Shear ewes early to keep them pasturing well and producing milk rather than "holing-up" in the shade to escape warm weather. See county extension agents for fertilizer recommendations to keep pasture producing at maximum.

Give lambs 1/2 to 3/4 pounds of grain daily, right up to loading time. Any locally-grown grain, alone or in mixture, will do. Keep plenty of fresh water and salt available.

Drenching Suggested
Drench lambs immediately if they show symptoms of internal parasites—scours, inability to gain, and dead-looking wool. Drench with one ounce of commercial liquid phenothiazine. Repeat in two weeks. Keep a nine-to-one salt and phenothiazine mixture before the flock at all times.

When lambs reach 80 pounds and grade "choice," get them to market rather than waiting for the entire lamb crop to ripen. Over-ripe lambs not only go down in grade and value but require extra feed and care in the process. Neighbors can often pool transportation for small lots of market-ready lambs.

Keep earliest, heavy, ewe lambs at home for flock replacement.

The specialists also advise growers with old-crop lambs to move them to market within the next two weeks to avoid price loss in competition with the 1957 crop.

7 Million Bushels Of Grain Shipped

Salem—Almost seven million bushels of 20 cargoes of grain were inspected out of Oregon in March for overseas shipment, T. R. Liph Harry of the state department of agriculture's grain division, has reported.

Most of the export movement left Portland but about a half-million bushels moved from Astoria. The total included 4.4 million bushels wheat; 1.6 million bushels barley; and 633,000 bushels of corn.

Countries on the receiving end of the March movement were India, Korea, Italy, France, Japan, Okinawa, South America and Pakistan, the department records show.

In the first three months of this year the department inspected more than 17.1 million bushels of export grain or more than the entire grain export business for the year 1954.

Harry said business already handled and orders in merchants' hands point to an all-time high grain exporting from Oregon in 1957.

Conservation Group Officers Reelected

Directors of the Sams Valley Beagle soil conservation district Monday night reelected all previous board officers at the annual reorganization meeting.

The officers include R. Bruce Grieve, Trail, chairman; Lester E. James, Sams Valley, vice chairman; Earl B. Day, Central Point, treasurer; and W. B. Tucker, secretary.

A guest at the meeting was Bob McLaughlin, Hillsboro, area agronomist for the Oregon Soil Conservation service. He described a new regional forage crop nursery recently installed at Corvallis.

Newark, N. J.—(U.P.)—State Sen. Malcolm S. Forbes, 37-year-old millionaire, overwhelmingly won the Republican nomination for governor Tuesday night. He will meet Democratic Gov. Robert B. Meyner in the November general election.

Hormone Injections Boost Beef Gains, Tests Indicate

Corvallis—Stillbestrol hormone injections to boost beef gains proved more effective than "fed" stillbestrol in trials just completed by the Oregon college agricultural experiment station—provided animals receive enough protein to make full use of the hormone stimulus.

Feeder steers on high protein rations this winter gained 10 to 15 per cent faster when pellets were implanted under the skin on the back side of the ear as compared with addition of stillbestrol to the grain ration. Both methods are used by ranchers.

Tests Conducted
Tests were conducted with Hereford steers at OSC's Malheur branch experiment station near Ontario during a 126-day feeding period ending April 1. Neil Hoffman, station superintendent, said advantages of implants were lost when not accompanied by high protein rations.

Highest gains — 3.06 pounds per day—were made by steers receiving a 30-milligram stillbestrol implant at the start of the feeding program. The basic feed ration consisted of free-choice alfalfa, about 11 pounds of ground ear corn, and one-half pound of wheat bran. Added protein was about four pounds of ammoniated beet pulp, a new product measuring 20 per cent protein.

Steers on the same ration, but with 10 milligrams stillbestrol daily mixed in the bran, averaged daily gains of 2.72 pounds. Cost per pound of gain from "fed" stillbestrol was 18.3 cents compared to 16.4 cents with the stillbestrol implant.

Feeding Trials
The feeding trials further showed that ammoniated beet

pulp produced beef gains at less than standard protein supplement also rated 20 per cent crude protein. Beet pulp can be treated for approximately \$3 a ton, Hoffman reported, with total cost of the finished product about 20 per cent less than the protein supplement consisting of regular beet pulp and cottonseed meal.

Steers implanted with stillbestrol and receiving the protein supplement averaged daily gains of 3.03 pounds at a cost of 17.5 cents per pound of gain. Animals on "fed" stillbestrol and protein supplement gained 2.69 pounds a day at a cost of 19.3 cents per pound of gain.

High Protein Rations
Importance of high protein rations for effective use of stillbestrol implants was pinpointed when regular beet pulp was used with the basic ration of

alfalfa, corn and bran. Grains dropped to 2.73 pounds a day for animals receiving stillbestrol implants but went up to 2.83 pounds for steers on "fed" stillbestrol.

Tests were conducted with 50 high-quality yearling Hereford steers from OSC's Squaw Butte-Harney branch experiment station, Burns. The steers averaged about 810 pounds at the start of the feeding period. Average weight on April 1 ranged from 1153 pounds for the group on "fed" stillbestrol and protein supplement up to 1190 pounds for those receiving stillbestrol implants and ammoniated beet pulp.

Finished live grades for all animals ranged from "high good" to "choice" with the fastest gaining group consisting of two "high goods" and six "choice" or "low choice" animals.

Farm and Garden

Mongold Receives Gold Star Award

A fifth Gold Star Herd award has been made to W. D. Mongold, owner of La Pine Jersey Farm, route 1, Eagle Point, on his herd of registered Jerseys. The La Pine Jersey Farm herd won the award after having completed another year on official Herd Improvement Registry testing. The Gold Star recognition is for unusually high production over a four year period.

Last year, Mongold's 18 cows had an average production of 9,896 pounds milk containing 562 pounds butterfat. Over the past four years Mongold has had an average of 19 in his herd producing 9,260 pounds milk containing 524 pounds butterfat apiece. All tests on the herd were checked by Oregon State college and the American Jersey Cattle club. The Mongold herd average is more than two times greater than that of the "average" dairy cow in the United States.

The Herd Improvement Registry work is another of the programs carried on by The American Jersey Cattle club to aid the continuous improvement of the Jersey breed. The club's national headquarters is in Columbus, Ohio.

Garden Notes
By C. B. CORDY
County Extension Agent for Horticulture

Vegetable planting has been somewhat delayed due to wet soils but now is a good time to get in a rather complete garden except for the warm weather crops.

Such things as turnips, beets, spinach, carrots, radishes and onions should be seeded, but cabbages, cauliflower and head lettuce should be set out as plants. Head lettuce and spinach are cool weather plants and this is about as late as they could be planted successfully.

Garden Size
At the start of the season enthusiasm sometimes runs high and a gardener will plant a fairly large area. Then as the summer progresses and the weeds begin to come, it becomes a chore to take care of and in many cases it will not be properly taken care of. A small, well cared for garden will produce more than a large one taken over by weeds and it is more of a pleasure to work in.

By planting small amounts of the particular vegetables that are wanted and caring for them well a lot of the burden of gardening will be removed.

Delay Planting
Delay planting until a good seed bed can be worked up—add five pounds of a complete fertilizer to 100 square feet and work it lightly into the surface soil then plant the following amounts for an average family: Cabbage-18 plants; Beets-15 feet of row; Spinach-20 feet; head lettuce-1 dozen plants; Carrots-15 feet with another 15 feet in May; Onions-25 feet to 50 feet.

The first corn can also be planted now. Plant five rows of about 5 feet long with an early variety such as Seneca Golden and another 5 feet of a later corn such as Golden Cross Bantam. Every ten days extend the five rows another 5 feet. This will keep your table supplied with fresh corn from the middle of July up until the first frost.

Portland — (U.P.) — Circuit Judge Frank J. Lonergan has set next Wednesday to hear arguments on a motion for a new trial for District Attorney William Langley who was convicted last Saturday on a misdemeanor charge of neglect of duty.

Weeds and Herbicides

By RAY HUBBELL
County Weed Control Supervisor

The time for controlling broad-leaved weeds in grains is well upon us.

With all the talk of new weed killers, one might ask if there is anything better for this job than 2-4-D. The answer to that question is that 2-4-D is still the best weed killer to be used on grain and grass crops. Spraying grains and grass crops with 2-4-D is a good investment. It usually returns three to four times the cost of the spray job. In that case, it is a job worth doing right.

Correct Use
After deciding to spray, the next step is to select the correct formulation of 2-4-D. For harder to kill weeds, such as tar weed or fiddle neck, annual burnet and knob weed 2-4-D low volatile esters may be used. A combination of one part 2-4-D and one part 245T may be used if the majority of weeds are in the harder to kill class. Surrounding susceptible crops must be considered with the use of the 2-4-D low volatile esters.

The rate of application for 2-4-D or combinations may vary from 1/2 to 1 1/2 pounds of total acids per acre. Rates of application of 1/2 to 3/4 pound per acre are usual for the annual weeds. For perennial weeds, such as Canada thistle and morning glory, as high as 1 1/2 pounds of parent acid per acre may be used.

Winter Grain
Winter grain should not be sprayed until after it has started tillering or stooling and may be sprayed until the head is in the boot. Spring grains may be sprayed when 6 to 8 inches high and up until the time of the early boot stage.

Improperly timed applications, particularly when the grain is small may result in serious injury to the grain crop. Incorrect calibration of equipment is another source of crop injury and will be covered in a following article.

2-4-D may be used on corn if care is given to application. Corn is one of the more sensitive of the cereal crops to the growth-regulating chemicals, such as 2-4-D. Excessive drenching of the plant should be avoided.

Most satisfactory results in spraying corn have come from using a drop nozzle that applies the spray at the base of the corn plant below the leaves. This is particularly true in cases of Hybrid sweet corn. Excellent results have been achieved by an overall coverage on field and silage corns.

Wine Producers Are Warned of Materials
Fresno, Calif.—A warning to wine producers against the use of unclean and adulterated raw material was voiced here recently by an official of the U.S. food and drug administration.

McKay McKinnon Jr., chief of the FDA's San Francisco office, called upon a meeting of San Joaquin valley wine growers to stop a "gray market for garbage" in the use of unsupervised grapes. He said the practice is far from general, but that in an inspection last fall a number of wineries were found to have used grapes which were diseased or contained insects.

The federal official blamed competition for purchase of grapes for the use of unsupervised grapes, but said that demand "can never justify traffic in adulterated raw material."

180 Retail Beverage Outlets in County

Jackson county now has 180 premises licensed to sell alcoholic beverages at retail compared with 176 in effect April of last year, the Oregon liquor control commission has reported.

This is typical of general license stability throughout the state, all retail premises now numbering 4704, which is 12 fewer than those operating at the same time last year. Of these outlets, 2312 allow sale of beverages for consumption on the premises.

Licensing operations are based on public need in a community, which does not vary sharply unless there are sudden surges in population usually due to new industry, according to OLCC Chairman Hugh Kirkpatrick.

Salem—Two hundred sixty-one reactors in 3,032 herds were found in the 43,706 cattle tested for brucellosis, (Bangs disease) in Oregon during March under the federal-state cooperative testing program. The reactors represent almost six-tenths of one per cent of the cattle tested; they were found in 107 herds. In addition, 15,215 calves in 715 herds were vaccinated.

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Fifty years of progress in International motor truck engineering and production are represented by the original 1907 "IHC Auto Wagon" and the new "Golden Jubilee" light-duty pickup, one of the new International A-line of light, medium and heavy-duty motor trucks being introduced to the Medford area by International Harvester Co., 2232 Biddle Rd., Medford. The high-wheeled Auto Wagon's 20-horsepower two cylinder air-cooled engine compares with five gasoline and four LPG six-cylinder high-torque truck engines from 112 to 154 horsepower available for the new International models. While the Auto Wagon was built specifically for hauling produce from farm to market, new International trucks are offered in a wide variety of four and six-wheel and all-wheel-drive models for specialized and general trucking applications. Golden Jubilee pickup, rated at 4,200 pounds gross vehicle weight, features a seven-foot custom pickup body, new Sweep-Around windshield with 1,81-square inch glass area and a new 65-inch wide custom cab which has the widest inside dimension of any comparable truck model. Wheelbase is 114 inches. Standard engine is rated at 112 horsepower and 154-horsepower engine is optional.