

Horticulturists See Growth In Winter Pear Popularity

Corvallis—Growing popularity of Pacific coast winter pears among both consumers and retailers is reported by two Oregon State college horticulturists who returned recently from observing eastern pear markets.

Grower-supported pear promotion through the Oregon-Washington-California Pear Bureau received high praise by OSC horticulturists Henry Hartman and Elmer Hansen at the bureau's annual meeting, May 23, at Portland. Hartman, professor emeritus at OSC, is known as "the father of the winter pear industry."

Improvement Needed

Need for continued improvement in winter pear quality and promotion was stressed by the OSC team, however, to meet new competition for the eastern fruit market. Heavy imports of high-quality Argentine pears in New York City, and rapid progress by midwest and eastern orchardists to improve quality of the flavorful McIntosh apple were noted by Hartman and Hansen.

In commending the Pear Bureau's advertising program, Hartman said it is "becoming increasingly apparent that supermarkets are going to feature commodities that help put on promotion campaigns."

Improved handling of pears, and supermarkets' adoption of a pear-ripening program fostered by the Pear Bureau 10 years ago were also listed by the OSC team as key developments contributing to increased popularity of winter pears.

Retail Markets

Winter pears with a farm value of \$20 to \$25 million annually in the three western states now share prominence in retail markets with citrus, apples, and other less perishable fruits, the horticulturists stated.

Pear Bureau fieldmen service about 50 major markets throughout the country, assisting merchants with storage and display techniques to assure orderly ripening of pears. The bureau, now in its 26th year, represents approximately 85 percent of the Pacific coast's winter pear production of 6 or 7 million boxes.

Hartman said one major chain of east coast supermarkets has increased pear sales nearly 20 times since adopting the ripening program a few years ago. Cold storage pears from the Pacific coast states are put through special ripening rooms of supermarkets on careful schedule that assures a steady flow of ripened fruit for retail display. This relieves home-makers of the necessity of ripening pears at home.

Increase Seen
Another major food state chain reported a seven-fold increase in pear sales in the past seven years, using the ripening program and tie-in promotion with the O-C-U Pear Bureau.

While improved merchandising methods of supermarkets have contributed greatly to pear sales, Hartman cautioned the Pear Bureau not to overlook the small neighborhood store that has long dominated the retail picture in large cities.

The bulk of the population in such places as New York City still lives in congested areas and is not likely to be serviced soon by supermarkets, Hartman noted. He said some progress has been made in servicing such stores, but that it still remains a major problem of the pear industry to help these numerous low-volume stores improve pear merchandising.

Pear Promotion
New York City, typified by the neighborhood store, still receives

about one-third of the Pacific coast's winter pear production. Twenty-five years ago it was taking more than three-fourths the production, Hartman said in pointing out how O-C-U pear promotion elsewhere in the country has broadened pear distribution.

Need for western states to study possibilities of developing so-called "controlled atmosphere" storage plants was pointed out by Hansen who inspected some 20 to 25 plants during the trip east.

Of the 100 controlled atmosphere plants now operating throughout the country, only one in California is west of the Mississippi. Seventy-five are in New York state and are used for apple storage.

Conversion of standard refrigerated storage into "controlled atmosphere" plants to maintain low oxygen and high carbon dioxide ratios have extended storage life of apples by four to six months beyond normal cold storage life.

Hansen said the method offers considerable promise for improving storage life of winter pears in preliminary trials at Oregon State college. Several experimental controlled atmosphere rooms are included in the new biological sciences building under construction at OSC and scheduled for completion this fall.

Interest in controlled atmos-

phere storage has been sparked by the experience that polyethylene bags are not completely effective in prolonging "shelf life" of pears. This has been especially noticeable in attempts to improve the value of the Anjou pear as late season variety. Hartman and Hansen noted some indication, however, that poly bags were prolonging the period of good dessert quality of Bosc pears.

Effectiveness of poly bags to extend storage life was lessened when shippers learned that excessive build-up of carbon dioxide in the bags was causing "brown core" in pears. Puncturing of bags to prevent build-up of carbon-dioxide has helped overcome the brown core problem but has, at the same time, lessened effective storage life.

Despite this shortcoming of poly bags Hartman and Hansen said they are gaining in popularity with pear buyers. Pears packed in poly bags were almost entirely free of wilt and mechanical injury, the researchers stated. Also, the bags tend to retard coloration of pears which, to some buyers at least, indicates longer market life.

Hansen and W. M. Mellenthin, superintendent of OSC's Mid-Columbia branch experiment station at Hood River, are conducting tests with both poly bags and plastic lined boxes in an attempt to better regulate the carbon-dioxide.

Recommendations For Pastures Given By Extension Agent

Pastures have a way of shrinking after first lush growth of spring, County Agent Earle Jossy points out. Sometimes in mid-summer, it seems the cows can't find enough feed to keep them going without help from the haypile, he said. The obvious solution is to have more acres of pasture. The more practical answer is to get more feed from the pasture which is already available.

Increase Production

The county agent noted there are several ways to increase production of pastures, and all of them together add up to good pasture management. "Probably one of the most important is to watch your irrigation," he said. Irrigate when the crop needs water, not too soon, and not too late. A way to determine when the crop needs water is to dig down with a shovel or use a soil auger. When you find the soil is crumbly 12-18 inches deep, it is time to irrigate. Waiting until the crops wilt reduces yields of pasture considerably.

In some districts, where irrigation water is on rotation basis, there is no choice but to irrigate when the water is available, he noted. In any event, the water should be left on the land long enough to fill the soil, and then it should be taken off. "Again check with the shovel or soil auger and when the soil is wet 2 to 3 feet deep turn the water off," Jossy said. Any additional water will leech out plant food and if left on more than a day or so will start to rot off the little plant roots, he explained.

Pastures need to be fed just as animals do. Proper irrigation alone will not produce a good pasture. It is also necessary to fertilize the fields. Usually the cheapest way of acquiring nitrogen is to keep a good percentage

of legumes in the field. Ladino clover and Birdsfoot Trefoil are two of the best, and they will provide considerable nitrogen, it was explained. In order to feed the legumes, it is usually necessary to add phosphorus and sulphur. Sometimes some other elements are needed also but these are the two most commonly needed ones in this area.

A heavy application of superphosphate will provide both sulphur and phosphorus and it is best applied in the fall, usually in October. In pasture where grass is predominant and the clover is more or less on the thin side, it would probably be necessary to add some nitrogen fertilizer.

Twenty to 40 pounds of actual nitrogen applied in the spring and again sometime during the summer would be desirable. This may be provided by 100-200 pounds of ammonium sulphate. Where pastures are well-balanced between legumes and grasses, 16-20-0 Ammonium Phosphate is a good fertilizer to use and should be applied in the spring (March or early April). A good rule to remember is legumes need sulphur and phosphorus—grasses need nitrogen, Jossy said.

Rotation of pastures is proven to be one way to make them yield considerably more than they will in any other way. It takes leaves to make grass and legumes grow. No one would go out and pick all the leaves off their little tomato plants and expect those plants to live. So there is no reason to allow the livestock to go out and pick all the leaves off of the pastures and expect those pastures to grow well, Jossy said. They're just like tomato plants and they need leaves to help them grow. Leaves are little factories which manufacture plant food and return it to the roots for storage and use. This makes strong roots which make for a healthy, fast-growing plant. Pastures which have been used on a daily rotation plan where the cattle were allowed to eat one day out of 20 have produced up to twice as much forage as these same pastures produced when the cattle were allowed to roam over them and eat here and there and wherever they felt like eating.

Pastures which have reverted to common rye grass and white clover will always be low producers. These should be plowed and reseeded to high producing varieties of forage plants. Akaroa Orchard Grass or Alta Fescue plus Ladino clover and/or Birdsfoot Trefoil are long-lived, high-yielding forage producers in Jackson county. In order to get the top yields and to get the money back for fertilizer and irrigation, it pays to put these pastures into the high-yielding varieties of plants.

Of course, in most cases, it isn't possible to plow up all the pasture and reseed it in one year, the county agent noted. Many operators are taking a small percentage of the pasture and renovating it each year so that over a period of about 10 years all of the pastures are reseeded. It is usually desirable to plant these fields to grain or other annual crops for one or two years after plowing and before reseeding, in order to clean out the unwanted grass and forage plants in the area and also to kill out the weeds.

Weeds and Herbicides

By RAY HUBBELL
County Weed Control Supervisor

Dyer's Weed, better known as Marlahan Mustard, was believed first found on the Marlahan ranch in northern California. Thus, it became known as Marlahan Mustard.

It grew unchecked in that area for a number of years and managed to infest many acres of hay and grazing land. Today, it could very well be compared to the star thistle situation in Jackson county. Quite a lot of hay is hauled out of this Scotts Valley area to dairy and cattle ranches all through the western part of Oregon.

Scattered Infestation

Marlahan Mustard seeds falling from these loads of hay have given Oregon a scattered infestation on state and county roadsides. A number of farms in Jackson county, upon which this hay was fed, have small infestations. The control of Marlahan Mustard on roadsides and in feed lots is relatively easy with non-selective sprays. Beyond these areas, Marlahan Mustard presents a real problem if not controlled. It can easily infest this grazing area. Likewise, manure spread over farm or pasture land from these cattle can also be a means of spreading these seeds.

Could Present Problem

Marlahan Mustard on fertile soil will grow to the height of four or five feet. It can be found on rocky washes and hills in a variety of stages, depending on soil and moisture available. This is why Marlahan Mustard could present a problem if not controlled and the mountain grazing area become infested.

Once Marlahan Mustard has been seen, it is very easy to distinguish from other mustards. It may be found growing anywhere, while common types of mustard are more or less confined to lower or agricultural areas. The flowers of Marlahan are an "off yellow" color compared to other mustards and are all at the top of the plant. One might compare it with a parachute. The leaf is similar to mustard leaves inasmuch as they have lobes at the base which clasp the stem. The stem will have "purplish" streaks. Seed pods will hang on the upper portion of the plant between the flower and the main stem. These turn dark brown as they mature.

It would be wise to destroy these plants before seed maturity, either by spraying or pulling and burning. Anyone knowing of Marlahan Mustard not being controlled in Jackson county is requested to call the county agent's office, giving location and other information.

Weed Control Charts Reported Available

Charts showing effective chemicals to use in control of common weeds, recommended application rates and other information are available for local farmers at the county agent's office.

Included in the chart are recommendations on control of miscellaneous brush, cattails, Canada thistle, dock, poison oak, quackgrass, Russian knapweed, ragweed, St. Johnswort, star thistle, tansy ragwort, tussock, white top, wild iris, wild garlic and wild morning glory.

The charts describe when to spray as well as precautions to take in using the chemicals. The county agent's office is located on the basement floor of the courthouse.

Conservation Group To Meet on June 6

Regular meeting of the Rogue Soil Conservation district will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 6, in the county agent's office. C. W. Jensen, Rogue River, is chairman.

A report is expected on use of the district's recently acquired two and one-half yard dump truck and crawler-type tractor which are in use for conservation projects.

Members of either the Rogue or Sams Valley-Beagle districts wishing to use the equipment may make arrangements by calling their district offices, according to County Agent W. B. Tucker.

Bentgrass Growers Told To Register by Monday

Salem — Highland bentgrass seed growers are advised by the state department of agriculture that they must register by June 3 to be eligible to vote in the upcoming referendum on the proposed commodity commission.

Medford Poultryman Elected to Board

Dunbar Carpenter, well-known Medford poultryman and fruit grower, was named second vice president of the Oregon Egg Producers following the 37th annual meeting of the 4,200-member marketing and purchasing co-operative held May 21 in Salem.

Carpenter, who represents Jackson and Josephine county producers in the association's board of directors, was the only new officer named. Selected to serve for a second one-year term were Fred Petersen, Junction City, president; Kelly Comstock, Portland, first vice president; and J. Clifford Hess, Roseburg, secretary-treasurer.

Election Results

Results of the elections for seven of the 13 positions on the board of directors were announced at the meeting's morning session. Carpenter was re-elected to a third two-year term as director. Chosen from other districts were Petersen, Hess, Harlan Christensen, McMinnville; Howard Hughes, Hillsboro; Merrill L. Jensen, Eugene, and D. L. St. John, Gervais.

The 300 members and guests



DUNBAR CARPENTER
Second Vice President

attending the meeting heard H. R. Rohe, general manager of the association predict better times ahead for Oregon poultrymen.

Rohe's statement was included in his annual report which was presented at the May 21 meeting. His forecast was based on U.S.D.A. statistics indicating that the hatch of egg-type chicks so far this year was more than 20 per cent under a year ago. U.S.D.A. figures also indicate a rather heavy liquidation of layers during the month of April.

Short Supply

If their figures are anywhere near correct, Rohe stated that eggs should be in short supply during the last half of this year and the first part of 1958. Although storage holdings are substantially higher than a year ago, prices should start advancing to higher levels by mid-summer.

This was encouraging news to poultrymen who have seen egg prices fall to the lowest level since prior to World War II. On Jan. 1, 1956 the price of Large AA eggs to local retailers was 66 cents per dozen. Within 30 days prices had plummeted 18 cents to 48 cents a dozen. After hovering around the 50 cent level for months, prices advanced to a fall high of 59 cents

in September and then declined to 48 cents at the close of the year. Since then prices have dropped still further.

Egg department receipts totaled 6,203,610 dozen eggs in 1956 as compared to 5,033,040 dozen in 1955. This was an increase of 23 1/2 per cent.

New Record Set

During 1956, a new record was set by the feed department with the production of 75,023 tons of feed, which was 7 1/2 per cent or 5,300 tons over 1955 production. Since 1948, the association has increased its feed output by 80 per cent.

A new all-time high in gross dollar volume of business was also reached by the farm supply department. Sales in 1956 totaled \$412,246, a 25 per cent increase over 1955 sales of \$328,536.

The total dollar volume of business transacted through the 16 western Oregon branches of the Oregon Egg Producers during 1956 passed the \$9,900,000 mark. Members received a patronage refund of \$611,405 which was paid in cash or its equivalent.

Farm and Garden

Vegetable, Fruit Inspections Increase

Salem—Figures just released by the state department of agriculture show that vegetable and fruit inspections during the month of April at Oregon's federal-state shipping point districts totaled 3,305 cars.

This is an increase of 1,222 cars inspected for grade certification by the department as compared to the 2,083 car total during the same month one year ago. Potato shipments lead in inspections with 2640 cars checked during the month, an increase of 1,044 cars over the 1,596 figure compiled during April, 1956.

All commodities inspected for certification by the department during the month should an increase in the exception of apples. A total of 68 cars was inspected during April as compared to 108 cars a year ago. Pear shipments were second to potatoes during April with 473 cars inspected. This also is an increase over the same period last year when 284 cars were shipped.

Oak Leaf Minor Spraying Advised

Home owners who have had trouble with oak leaf minor should spray for control of this pest, according to Don Berry, county horticulture agent.

White oaks are particularly susceptible to attack by leaf minor, which causes the leaves to turn brown and fall during the summer. Oak trees which are severely affected by this pest, take on an overall sickly appearance and drop leaves during the summer. Both malathion and DDT are used for controlling oak leaf minor, aphids and some other pests on oaks at this time of year, Berry said. Three pounds each of DDT and malathion per 100 gallons should be used and the trees thoroughly sprayed.

Swine Chain Started At Illinois Valley

Cave Junction — A swine chain to provide projects for members of the Illinois Valley Future Farmers of America has been started by the Larro feed division of General Mills, Inc. The FFA purchased a gilt from member Clark England with the check recently received from the firm and the four-month-old sow is being cared for by Dick Strohknecht of Selma. When it farrows, one of the gilts will go to another boy in the club to continue the chain. The original pig and all other piglets are kept by the FFA owner.

Grange Notes

Central Point
Father's day will be observed at the regular meeting of the Central Point Grange Friday night, June 7. The lecture hour will start promptly at 8 p.m., followed by the business meeting. A skit written and directed by Mrs. Scott Hamilton will be presented and the juvenile grange also will be on the program.

Dolls with hand-crocheted dresses made by Mrs. Lloyd McCashen will be sold. Lunch committee members are Mr. and Mrs. Bert Castor, Mrs. Lucy Grissom, Everett Grissom and Mrs. Helen Johnson.

Hungarians Allowed To Marry Foreigners

Vienna — (AP) — The Communist Hungarian government said today that Hungarians no longer need government consent to marry foreigners.

The announcement broadcast by Budapest Radio also said foreign girls marrying Hungarians no longer will lose their foreign citizenship in Hungary.

Governor Signs Major Agriculture Bills This Year

Salem—A total of five bills which have a direct bearing on the department of agriculture were signed by the governor before the legislature ended and a number of other bills affecting the department were passed and are awaiting the governor's signature.

Here is a brief rundown of those signed which will be administered by the department:

Brand Inspection

Brand inspection—This permits a downward adjustment in some brand inspection fees and also permits the department to lower fees for recording of livestock brands. It also brings full-time livestock brand inspectors under the state civil service act.

Meat dealers license—License fees for slaughterhouses and retail meat markets are halved to restore them to the pre-1955 level of \$50 and \$10 respectively. This will be effective on August 3, 1957.

Poultry inspection—Authorization for ante mortem and post mortem inspection of poultry at plants which seek this service covers chickens, turkeys, and other domesticated birds and rabbits. Plants will pay monthly inspection fees to the department, which will hire the veterinary and law inspectors. Cities may maintain their own poultry inspection services, if approved by the state.

Public grain warehouses—This sets up department procedures if a grain shortage is found, spells out how a public grain warehouse shall proceed if it discontinues operations, lists additional causes for which a license may be refused or revoked, and provides for the exception of grain not subject to public storage.

Weed Killers

Weed killer—In the event of alleged damages from the use of herbicides (weed killers) the department is authorized to investigate, examine and determine the extent and nature of the damages. A second law, effective Jan. 1, 1958, amends the legislation on creation and operation of chemical control districts to give all legal voters in a district a voice in the hearings, referendum and organization of a chemical control district. However, only landowners are still entitled to petition for such areas. This also provides that levies on any protected area will be on all property taxable for state or county purposes, rather than on real property only. This amendment with respect to chemical control districts was introduced at the request of the state tax commission.

Car Inspections Expected to Drop

Salem—The year 1957-58 will see a smaller movement of fruits and vegetables from Oregon if the "guesstimates" made recently by federal-state shipping point supervisors are somewhat accurate.

These eight men say a total of 33,430 cars will be inspected the coming year, which is 1,040 cars less than the estimated figure of 34,470 cars made one year ago.

The figures given by the shipping point supervisors are simply a look into the future via the crystal ball and are arrived at before all of the crops are planted and before weather conditions and other growing hazards make their appearance, it was explained.

Potato shipments, as usual, make up the biggest single portion of this total given, with supervisors estimating 19,790 cars will be inspected the coming year. This figure would be the third highest in the past five years for movement of this commodity, and includes diversion inspections and re-inspections.

Walter D. Jensen, supervisor, estimates Medford will ship a total of 4,120 cars broken down as follows: pears, 4,000; onions, 50; potatoes, 20; peaches, 40; and plums and prunes, 10. This total would be the third highest in the past five years, if reached.

Mosquitos Develop DDT Resistance

Insecticides such as DDT, malathion and chlorinated hydrocarbons can not be depended on to control mosquitoes, according to the U.S.D.A. studies made in California.

Mosquitos developed resistance to DDT as early as 1949. After 2 1/2 years of use of malathion, many species of mosquito larvae as well adult females developed immunity.

The culex tarsalis larvae were 20 to 30 times more resistant to malathion in Fresno county, where this chemical has been used extensively, than in previously untreated areas, the report stated. The adults were 100 times more resistant than those from areas where malathion was not used.

This just indicates that the breeding ground must be drained off standing water, the soil leveled and sloped bordering small reservoirs to prevent stagnant pools, it was pointed out. It requires some 10 days for the mosquito eggs to hatch. If surface areas are drained the mosquito breeding ground will be destroyed.

QUEEN TO REIGN

Cave Junction—A queen, to be selected by popular vote, will reign over the July 4 celebration planned for the Illinois valley by its three veterans groups, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans of World War I and the American Legion. Contestants will attend a planning meeting at the Legion hall Friday, May 31, at 8 p.m.

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