

GARDENING TIPS

By DON BERRY
County Extension Agent

Cucumber Set: Cucumbers have separate male and female flowers in the ratio of about four to one. Since bees do most of the pollinating, when insecticides are necessary for spider mite or other pest control these should be applied late in the evening when there is no bee activity in the garden.

Cross-Pollination: Squash, cucumbers, melons and gourds often cross when planted close together. This however will make little difference to the home gardener unless he is saving seed for future use. The fruits themselves will come true to type unless cross-pollinated seed is planted. When squash and melons do not come true to type it is probably due to the seed. If it is perfectly permissible then for home gardeners to plant melons, cucumbers and gourds side by side if using them only for food.

After harvest care of cane berries: Removing the old fruited canes and spindly new growth as soon as harvest is completed on cane berries is a good practice. Cut off as close to the ground as possible. Burn the prunings. Water to develop sturdier canes for next year's crop and control weeds with shallow cultivation.

How much water for tomatoes: Irrigate very little until plants start to set fruit and normal rainfall slackens. Then water to keep soil plenty moist at all times. Tomatoes require a considerable amount of moisture. Adequate watering helps prevent blossom end rot. Excessive watering early does encourage vigorous foliage growth which retards fruit set.

How to water tomatoes: Most tomato plants are irrigated with a furrow or open ditch near the plant, though overhead sprinkling is often used. Sprinkling usually does not interfere with pollination or fruit set.

TURF DISEASES are often a problem during the hot part of the summer. Brown patch and mushroom fairy ring are some of the common ones in this area which require treatment for control. Where the problem is serious, one of the mercury compounds obtainable at the seed and feed stores may be used. Several trade name compounds containing mercury are available and should be applied according to directions on the packages.

A mixture of calomel (mercurous chloride) and corrosive sublimate (mercuric chloride) are two widely used non-organic mercury compounds which can be obtained at the local drug stores. By mixing one ounce of each material in ten gallons of water to cover five hundred square feet, the corrosive sublimate calomel mixture can be applied with a garden sprayer or sprinkling can. Corrosive sublimate dissolves readily in warm water while calomel does not dissolve in water, so the spray solution should be stirred frequently to keep the mixture uniform.

Applications to diseased areas should be repeated at about two week intervals. Where dead areas are not too large, grass will generally recover after several treatments and fill in. Reseeding is necessary on large spots.

ALL MERCURIAL COMPOUNDS ARE POISONOUS and should be kept away from children and pets. Some of these materials will corrode metal, so rinse equipment thoroughly after application.

WATERING is important on both the lawns and the gardens. A thorough watering at least once a week is necessary during the summer. An easy way to tell if sufficient water is being applied is to set a gallon can in the middle of the sprinkler area and allow the sprinkler to run in that spot until three inches of water have collected in the can. This amount of time then should be required at every setting. Many of the brown spots occurring in the lawns are due to lack of water.

ARBORVITAE showing dead limbs or severe twig and needle die-back are probably affected with Berckmann's blight. This is a fungus disease which occurred during the previous fall rains.

ROOT-BORER Home-owners who are having trouble with root-borers on their ornamental peaches, plums, cherries or laurel hedges should spray or dust as

soon as possible for their control.

These insects are noticed when masses of gum appear on the trunk of the tree near the ground in the case of ornamental fruit trees and will kill individual bushes in a laurel hedge.

By spraying or painting the trunks of the trees or hedge with a DDT solution made up by mixing one cup of 50 per cent DDT in one gallon of water, borers can be controlled. This should be applied as soon as possible and a second application should be made in about three weeks.

Field Man Cut From State Dept. Dairies Division

Salem - A small change which the 1959 legislature made in the Oregon dairy code is largely responsible for the reduction by one full man of field representatives of the division of foods and dairies, state department of agriculture.

O. K. Beals, division chief, says he will not replace Jacob De Young, dairy inspector in the Salem area, who has taken a post in private industry in southern California. This leaves 10 dairy fieldmen on the payroll.

On joint proposal of the department and the dairy industry, the legislature put its blessing on permitting milk tank drivers to draw official samples from farm milk tanks. The department cannot license drivers for this work until after August 5, but this economy measure will be put into effect as soon as drivers are trained and licensed. It will relieve the department's field representatives of considerable work and many miles of travel each year, thus permitting the eliminating of one inspector.

Other Factors Responsible Beals says other factors, too, have worked to permit reduction in the field personnel. One, of course, is fewer though larger dairies. Another is a switch within the department of refrigerated locker inspection from Beal's division to the animal division because such meat is stored in these lockers.

A final reason the dairy workload of the 10 remaining fieldmen can be increased is that gradually through recent years they have been relieved of scale checking and gas pump checking as this work was turned almost completely to weights and measures inspectors.

The division's dairy fieldmen are now stationed as follows:

Albany, Rex Palmer; Baker, R. M. Smith; Bend, Robert A. Herwick; Coquille, Elvon Holman; Grants Pass, E. P. Black; Klamath Falls, Thomas Bailey; La Grande, Clarence Killbeck; Portland, Wilbur Malby; Salem, James Morgan; Tillamook, John A. Irving.

Farm Prices Dip One Per Cent Corvallis - Following a seasonal pattern, Oregon farm prices dipped one per cent last month, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college. However, farm prices in the state still ended up the highest for the month of June since 1953.

Following national trends, both crop and livestock products in Oregon turned down at mid-June, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U.S. department of agriculture. While livestock fell to about 4 per cent under a year ago, crop prices remained some 6 per cent above a year earlier.

Lower price tags on beef cattle, calves, sheep, and fresh vegetables contributed most to the drop in Oregon farm prices, Mrs. Horrell said. Grain prices showed little change, while hogs, lambs, broilers, and turkeys went up a trifle.

Meanwhile, prices paid by farmers over the nation moved down a shade from May to June, but still average about one per cent higher than a year ago. As a result, the ratio between prices received and prices paid by farmers, including interest, taxes, and wage rates, now stands at 81 - a loss of one point for the month and 4 points below a year ago, Mrs. Horrell said.

REPAIRMAN TOO LATE Raeford, N.C. - A defective television set that already had given shocks to several members of a family Wednesday electrocuted nine-year-old Linda Furnage. A repairman was to have picked up the set to fix it today.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

A new wrinkle in the livestock and poultry picture is seen by John Strohm, editor of "High Dollar Farming." This Ford Motor company publication foresees that with the large increase of livestock and poultry seen, a 4 billion bushel corn crop may be a necessity rather than a surplus burden.

A University of Illinois agricultural economist thinks corn production and use will be brought into balance during the next two years. Corn stocks reports show corn use is at a record high.

Last year's 3.8 billion bushel crop will be used up before the corn pickers head down the row next fall, this publication predicts. Enough acreage was planted to produce a 4 billion bushel crop in 1959 but the weather may balk at turning that into another bumper crop. So, anyone for wheat? This is the surplus worrying this state.

"High Dollar Farming" also advises the farmer to lay in all his fertilizer now if he can find a good price. Compared to a year ago, prices for ammonium nitrate fertilizer will be up \$3 per ton in August, \$4 in September, at last year's price in October, up \$1 in November and \$2 in December.

As we were "gallivanting around the experiment station" as Little Diminuty, the wife, calls it, we noticed the almost daisy-picking deftness with which the station's "harvest hands" cut only certain sections of a grain plot. The field crews at the experiment station also make their contribution to agricultural science. One slip on their part and a year's work may be ruined.

Keep an eye on your local grocery store advertisements. According to the OSC truck crop market review for July 21, the nation's frozen vegetable supply as of July 1 was 6 per cent larger than a year ago. This should mean some good sales of frozen vegetables. Johnny, eat your spinach! There is 74.2 million pounds of it now in cold storage and this represents a 58 per cent increase over last year's hold-over supply! Other percentage increases are: asparagus 5 per cent; cauliflower, 18 per cent; green beans, 25 per cent; French-fried potatoes, 31 per cent; and broccoli, 48 per cent. Sweet corn supplies are down 22 per cent.

If you are planning some berry jam and perhaps laying away some frozen berry pies, you may be disappointed in the prices. Lack of pickers have caused many raspberries, blackbacs, boysenberries and loganberries to be scorched on the canes in this state. Of course the harvest peaks vary from area to area and from farm to farm.

Like Grandfather Pest Control Area Proposed Like Grandson-In Some of Ways

Salem - If you have an idea that all Oregon farmers have cast aside the ways of the early settlers, here's a jolt straight from the applications for Oregon's 1959 Century Farm honors.

One farmer says he still weans young animals and docks tails, too, by the signs of the Zodiac, as well as kills weeds and brush when the signs are right.

Modern fertilizers don't get much of a boost from this farmer. But he's as up-to-date as next year's station wagon in use of large quantities of drain tile, crop dusting and all the new medicines - including tranquilizers - the veterinarian has to offer.

The Oregon Historical Society and the state department of agriculture, sponsors of the program, say county judges are still verifying Century Farm claims. The list of farmers, who will be honored at a climaxed program on Sept. 8 at the Oregon State Fair, will be released later this month.

Obviously early history Century Farm applications, rides through the pages of the Farmers in Linn and Yamhill counties mention graves on their farms - the first white woman buried in Linn county and in the center of a Yamhill county field is the grave of a child buried in 1854.

Another 1959 claim was the honeymoon home of the first couple married in Jackson county. Near Newburg is a Centennial farm on which was built the first sawmill in Yamhill county.

Few of the original buildings on early farms still stand, but in Douglas county the present owner lives in the home built out of hand hewn lumber in 1853 and in Benton, Linn and Washington counties original barns are landmarks.

And then there's the part of the old house in Washington county with a large hole in the ceiling upstairs through which the children used to

scramble to hide from the Indians when the folks were gone!

Farm Notes

Monroe, La. - (UPI) - Chairman Allen J. Ellender (D-La.) of the senate agriculture committee has called for an end to a "cold war" in agriculture. He said the cold war is among farm organizations, between Congress and the Eisenhower administration, and between farmers and consumers.

Ellender's appeal for an end to the bickering came in a recent speech here to the Louisiana Farm Bureau convention.

Washington - (UPI) - The Farm Bureau Federation has urged Congress to reject one of the administration's food-for-peace proposals. It opposed an agriculture department request to Congress for an amendment to the law which authorizes exports of farm surpluses in return for foreign currency. The amendment would allow this country to donate surpluses for use in building national food reserves in other countries.

Washington - (UPI) - The agriculture department has reported the volume of futures trading in farm commodities declined in the year ending last June 30.

But the department said the futures trading continued to provide substantial hedging markets. Market prices for commodities like wheat, corn and soybeans held in relatively narrow ranges through the year. But merchandisers and processors continued to depend on hedges to reduce their price risks.

Washington - (UPI) - A House subcommittee has opened hearings on a bill designed to give priority to state laws on water rights.

The proposal, which would make the states' rights in this field supreme over federal claims has wide support among farm groups and Western state legislatures.

Washington - (UPI) - An Agricultural Department study on integration in the egg industry has predicted that many farmers may be driven out of business.

The study indicated the integration would bring down the cost of producing eggs, but that total egg production might increase faster than the nation's population.

Washington - (UPI) - The Agriculture department is expected to announce its final decision on lamb grading sometime this week.

At issue was whether to eliminate the federal lamb grading service. Elimination of the service is urged by some producer groups and big meat packers. Opposition came from consumers, a number of state governments, and from small meat packers and retailers.

If the department decides to drop the service, the move will be effective Sept. 1.

French coal fields are only about one-twentieth of the area of those in Illinois, and in normal times they produce 40 million tons annually.

State Awaits Final Brucellosis Word

Salem - Oregon's accelerated brucellosis testing program, aimed at statewide certification for the first time in history, ended late July 2, Frank McKennon, state director of agriculture announced. Certification for a state means no county with more than one per cent reactor cattle and five per cent of the herds infected.

Last reports on the Oregon program have been submitted to the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C., for review.

"We will not know the final outcome of the work here until Washington studies the records," McKennon said. "If the federal decision is as we hope, this will mark the end of a battle begun more than 30 years ago," he added.

McKennon recalled that Oregon pioneered in brucellosis then termed Bang's disease by which many still know it testing back in 1928. Varying degrees of testing, first on a voluntary basis and finally on a statewide compulsory basis since 1957, have been in effect since then. Original work was in dairy herds and dairy counties were the first to go after the disease in earnest.

Work Wrapped Up The work was wrapped up in Harney county Thursday with percentage testing of a 600-cow herd. No reactors were found, the field laboratory reported early Friday morning. (Percentage testing requires the entire herd to be tested if any reactors show on the first 20 per cent from which the blood sample is drawn.)

With exception of the one herd in Harney county, testing was completed by the June 30 deadline set more than two years ago.

Twenty-eight of the 36 Oregon counties and the Warm Springs Indian reservation were certified by April 1. In the last two months, state and federal veterinarians assisted by private veterinarians deputized by the state have conducted a heavy mopping up operation in Jackson, Crook, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Harney, Gilliam and Wallowa counties.

Dr. A. G. Beagle, in charge of federal veterinarians in Oregon, says "there is no apparent question about any of the county records with exception of Lake county." He anticipates Washington will give this county careful study before making a decision.

"I believe Washington will consider the Oregon work a remarkable record in view of the obstacles placed in the path of the program," Dr. Beagle prophesied. He cited the suit filed by a group of cattlemen, who attacked constitutionalism of the 1957 compulsory test act, as a major slowdown to the program. The court earlier this year upheld the law.

The contesting cattlemen insisted that calf vaccination alone was sufficient for control in beef operations. Calf vaccination has been in use here since the early 1940's.

Dr. L. E. Bodenweiser, state veterinarian, and Fred Pope, animal division chief, both with the state department of agriculture, expressed satisfaction and relief at completion of the testing. They said the situation had been "nip and tuck" the last few weeks. They said they would have additional comments when Washington renders its decision. They do not know how soon this will be.

Reduced Fever Cases In the meantime, McKennon pointed out that the Bang's program, although long and costly, has reduced Oregon cases of undulant fever - the human aspect of brucellosis - from 183 and two deaths as recent as 1945 to virtually no cases today. Nationally, 802 undulant fever cases were reported in 1958.

More Stockmen Are Relying On Calf Shots

Salem-Oregon cattle owners are relying increasingly upon calfhood vaccination to eradicate brucellosis from their herds, judging from the jump from 151,807 vaccinations in fiscal 1958 to 161,117 in fiscal 1959.

The figures were released this week by the federal and state departments of agriculture, cooperators in the control program.

The five top counties on the past year's vaccination lists are Malheur, Baker, Lake, Harney and Crook. Calves vaccinated in these counties ranged from 16,734 to 10,886. Every county but one (Hood River) reported some vaccination.

On the blood testing and milk ring testing phases of the control program, totals were lower than in fiscal 1958, but blood testing at salesyards and slaughterhouses showed a gain.

Comparative figures for the fiscal 1959 and fiscal 1958: cattle blood tested, 271,365 and 297,557; number reactor herds, 828 and 942; animals in reactor herds, 60,892 and 76,356; herds milk ring tested, 19,080 and 19,268 (11 months in 1957-58).

The lowered milk ring testing is more statistical than factual; cream testing was discontinued in fiscal 1959 in some herds as unsatisfactory because it proved impossible to test cream on a consistent repeat basis. For this reason, some of the "cream" herds were switched to blood testing.

On July 2, this year, Oregon completed testing for brucellosis certification and at this writing (July 17) officials are awaiting anticipated final approval from Washington, D. C.

Sudan Pastures Need Different Grazing Rules By EUGENE P. WINTERS
Jackson County Extension Agent

Sudan grass pastures require different grazing and management practices. The time of grazing, frequency of grazing and irrigation will help reduce the danger of prussic acid poisoning to livestock.

While it is well-known there is a definite poisoning possibility from pasturing in Sudan after frost, there is also this same threat following clipping, or grazing or if the plant is growing slowly because of drought.

Irrigation should be frequent enough to keep the plants in a healthy, vigorous condition.

Grazing can be started when the first seed heads appear. The stand should be grazed down quickly followed by a long recovery period for maximum yield of quality forage. Subsequent grazings should wait until the grass is 18 to 24 inches high.

Midget Hens

These are some of the midget hens with which OSC agricultural research scientists are now working. Aim is to develop an egg-layer which will produce more eggs for less feed. Body weight of the midget hen is 2 3/4 pounds compared to the body weight of 4 1/2 pounds for a normal hen. Egg weight for the midget hens is 24 ounces per dozen, the same as that for a normal hen. Feed per dozen for the midget hens is 3 pounds compared to 4 1/2 pounds per dozen eggs from the normal hens.

Body Weight: 2 3/4 lbs. Egg Weight: 24 oz per doz. Feed per Doz.: 3 lbs.

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Fruits, Produce Listed By OSC For Freezing

Corvallis - Freeze recommended fruit and vegetable varieties, and you'll have better meals next winter, say food technologists at Oregon State college.

Last year, OSC tested more than 300 varieties of fruits and vegetables to learn how they stand up under processing. Not all varieties freeze well. Some get tough, lose flavor, color and texture, and others tend to develop undesirable flavors. Varieties suitable for processing are suggested for Oregon use by Mrs. Lois Sather, food technologist.

They include: Apricots - Royal, Blenheim, Tilton, Wenatchee, Hookpark.

Blueberries and huckleberries - Native Wild Blue and Red, Concord, Jersey, Dixi, Stanley, Blue Crop, Blueray, Earlibue.

Cherries, sour-Montmorency, Earl Richmond, English Morello.

Cherries, sweet - Lambert, Bing, Deacon, Royal Ann, Republican, Van, Sam.

Figs-Mission, Kadota, Gillette, Granata, Lattarula, Black Spanish.

Grapes-Thompson Seedless, Worden, Campbell's Early, Concord.

Peaches - Elberta, Halehaven, Veteran, Triogen, J. H. Fairhaven, Coronet.

Strawberries-Marshall, Corvallis, Northwest, Brightmore, Siletz, Puget Beauty.

Beans, green or wax-Blue Lake strains, Tendergreen, Stringless Green Pod, Wade, Processor, Columbia, Kentucky Wonder, Puregold Wax.

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